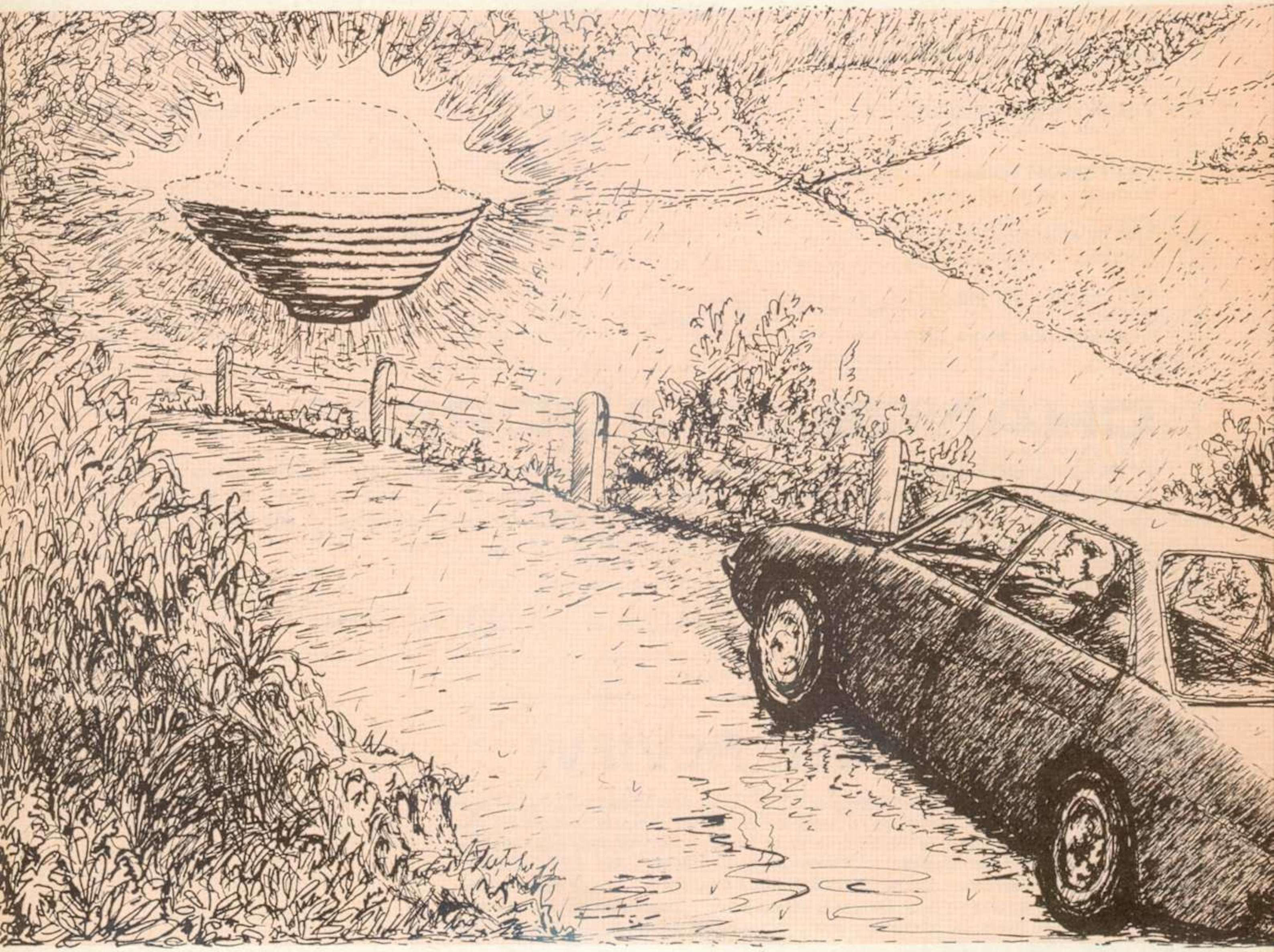
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Volume 21, Number 5 50p



CAR RETREATS FROM UFO

Bizarre encounter in Tasmania

See page 21

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Vol. 21, No. 5, 1975
(published February 1976)

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RUNNING THE BLOCKADE

REPORTED in the *Sunday Express* of November 23, 1975, was the following: "Researchers of the Academy of Applied Science, Boston, U.S., said yesterday they had taken photographs which conclusively established that the Loch Ness monster existed, roaming the depths of Scotland's biggest lake with a whole family of monsters.

"Dr. Robert Rines, president of the academy, said the pictures were taken last summer and would be shown to a symposium in Edinburgh on December 9. Dr. Rines said: 'There's no chance of a hoax. All of us make a living on the basis of our integrity, and we would not risk it for something like this.'

"A scientist who has seen the pictures described the creature as being 'a monster with a hard bony face, and nostrils above a thick upper lip, with two tubes or stalks protruding from the top of the head — quite revolting.' "

These lines are being written on November 26, so we have no knowledge of what will be revealed at Edinburgh, or of the outcome. And what has this to do with UFOs, anyway? Well, we trust the connection will be obvious.

On November 23 it seemed possible that the long-maligned Loch Ness monster was on the verge of acquiring a new measure of respectability, and certainly by November 25 the newspapers were full of it, with speculative paintings by naturalist Sir Peter Scott to boot.

On balance it had taken "Nessie" some 40 years of publicity, most of it banal, to reach the stage where groups of dedicated scientists were confidently trying to prove that the die-hard debunkers were wrong. On that basis, we ruminated, UFOs had at least twelve years to wait, and the small but devoted band of scientists in this country who maintain an active interest in them are still obliged to operate "underground" as it were. Perhaps it will be less than twelve years if the results of the works of their more fortunate colleagues overseas penetrate the establishmentarian blockade.

That the blockade is still manned was apparent from some of the reactions to the Loch Ness revelations.* Swift to follow from high places were the cries of "fraud," and on a lower level the humourists were having a rare time, particularly the cartoonists. Nevertheless, as though to echo our thoughts, the London *Evening Standard* of November 25, 1975, included in its Editorial the following lines: "If Nessie lives (contrary to all rational scientific thought on the subject previously) then why shouldn't UFOs exist too? Or ghosts, or angels or gods? Who is to say that even at this moment on some Himalayan slope the Abominable Snowman is not preening himself for Dr. Robert Rines's strobe camera?

"On the rare occasions when myth and reality coincide, let elves and werewolves thrive, and scepticism tremble."

* Reaction which, we quickly learned, put an end to the proposed Symposium in Edinburgh.

That then is the point. Another of those rare occasions may be just around the corner: we may not even have to wait as long as twelve years for the general realisation that UFOs are not myth, but are reality.

We may rest assured, however, that the establishmentarian science world will not budge without a struggle. The mention of ghosts in the *Evening Standard* served to remind us of a story our friend and colleague Gordon Creighton never tires of telling. It seems he was present at the centenary dinner of the Ghost Club some years ago, when Sir Julian Huxley was the Guest of Honour. During his speech the eminent scientist emphasized his own position in the blockading forces, for he implied that his hosts were all barking up the wrong tree: there was, he told them, nothing in parapsychology and nothing in ghosts; there was no more truth in them than there was in either the *Loch Ness monster* or in *flying saucers.*

The chairman was that well-known authority on ghosts, Peter Underwood, and he pointed out to Sir Julian after the speech that there was a member present, Mr. Creighton, who had lectured the club on UFOs. Perhaps Sir Julian would like to speak to him afterwards. Sir Julian, however, seemed to have no intention of doing so.

Somewhat taken aback, Mr. Creighton succeeded in button-holing the great man, and tackled him on his remarks about UFOs. Had Sir Julian read any of the scientific writings on UFOs, or studied the evidence?

Sir. J: "No. What evidence, which writings?"
Gdn. C: "Books and articles by Vallée and Hynek, for example."
Sir J: "Who are they?"
Gdn. C: "Astronomers."
Sir J: "But why should I read astronomers? I'm a biologist."

There are times, it seems, when one is on a good hiding to nothing, whatever one says! Yet all the time we should remember how another great scientist, Planck, reminded us that it is not true that men change their minds: we have to wait for the die-hards to pass on, so that their places may be taken by new and more adventurous young men. Which, of course, is happening all the time, so let us not be taken by surprise if we suddenly find ourselves running that blockade, and winning through.

Postscript: On December 10 Dr. Rines' Loch Ness pictures were shown to MPs at the House of Commons, and were published. Readers will realise we are not concerned with the merits or otherwise of these most interesting pictures; suffice it to say there were instanst counterblasts from experts at the Natural History Museum (experts who, being anything but foolish, know they need not budge until they see the *solid* evidence as opposed to what are merely *interesting* photographs): "The pictures prove nothing," and "they could be familiar objects like waterlogged tree trunks." How often we have listened to similar reactions in our own field.

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THE SNOWFLAKE STORY: A COMMENTARY

Charles Bowen

A FUNNY THING happened on the way to the station...on the morning of November 10, 1975. The previous evening I had been browsing over the Bebedouro UFO abduction case* and the follow-up article that was scheduled to appear in the last FSR (double) issue. Now, purely for a time check, I switched on the car radio and heard, in the BBC's *Today* programme, the tail end of a news item about someone being abducted by a UFO in Arizona. I was on the edge of my seat for the whole of the train journey up to town.

Apart from a few bantering remarks from a couple of colleagues who had also heard the news item, the first chance I had to speak with anyone about the report came when Mrs. Grattan-Guinness telephoned to say she had managed to confirm a few salient details with the BBC. After that it was a case of waiting to check up on the news cuttings that were bound to follow, and then hope for details of any possible private investigations. We were lucky in each respect.

First to arrive was a cutting from the Dublin *Evening Herald* of November 10, 1975. It confirmed that in the Apache National Forest of Arizona seven forestry workers were said to have encountered a hovering UFO at fairly close quarters, and that one of them, Travis Walton, had approached the object and had been struck down by a beam of light from it. His companions had fled, rather un-heroically, and left their prostrate companion on the ground. According to their story they had, some 15 minutes later, sufficiently recovered their composure and courage to drive back to the scene of the encounter. There they said they found neither UFO nor Travis, and assumed that the latter had been taken away by the former.

They reported their bizarre story to the Navajo County Sheriff, Marvin Gillespie, who declared that the six men would be given lie-detector tests on their reports and added: "I am not a total disbeliever in their story."

The basic details of the alleged event were true to type, but one detail that puzzled me was that six presumably sturdy outdoors men admitted that they cravenly drove away and left one of their party to the further tender mercies of something that had just flattened him – and, as it turned out, one of those timid six was a brother of the victim. However much I reasoned that the behaviour of men in the face of the unknown can be unpredictable, their behaviour stuck in my craw.

National Daily runs the story

Then on November 15 the totally unexpected happened: a sizeable account of the Travis Walton story was published in the *Daily Express*, sharing page 10 with the Editorial and a political cartoon. Ran the headline: "What really happened in the five days Travis Walton vanished right off the face of the earth?"

So, like the soldier in the Bebedouro case, like Betty and Barney Hill, like A.V.B., this latest abductee had returned to tell the tale.

The *Express* made the point that the story told by Travis Walton, citizen of the little town of Snowflake (pop. 3000), had become famous thanks to the added validity given by a report from Professor Harder of the University of California. This stated that taped conversations during the Gemini IV and XI, and the Apollo XII missions, reveal that astronauts had to take evasive action to avoid other space vehicles.

Nevertheless a story about an earth-man being kidnapped by denizens of an alien race is not likely to be easily believed, and despite what had been reported in the Dublin *Evening Herald*, it was stated here that the local sheriff had immediately suspected a hoax, and had ordered lie-detector tests on the six witnesses. Meanwhile Sheriff Gillespie had organised a posse which had combed the area, some on foot and others on horseback, and later they had helicopters to help the search.

The hunt for the missing forestry worker went on for five days and then, suddenly, he turned up, to be located at a wayside telephone booth by his brother Duane Walton, who reported his find to the sheriff. The law enforcement officer told Duane he had to see Travis immediately: there was a suspicion, he said, that Justice had been obstructed. So Travis came to tell his tale, and *Express* reporter Ivor Davis was there to hear it on November 14. Here follow extracts from the report:

"...We all saw the saucer that night. I knew what it was right away.

"When Duane was a kid he was followed by a saucer. We promised each other that if it happened again I would not be afraid.

"I was excited as the truck slowed down and I just jumped out and ran towards the glow. I felt no fear.

"I wanted to take a closer look and some of the guys from my works crew screamed at me to stop. I got close and something hit me. It was like an electric blow to my jaw and I fell backwards. I was still and everything went black.

"When I woke up there was a strong light in my eyes and I had problems focusing. I was panicky because there was a terrible pain in my head and chest.

"My mind cleared a little and

---

* See FSR Vol.19, No.6, and Vol.21, No. 3/4.

I thought I was in hospital. I was on a table on my back, and as I focused I saw three figures. It was weird. They were not human. I closed my eyes and opened them again. They were creatures. I looked around. They were ... strange.

"They looked like a crowd of well-developed foetus to me, about five feet tall, and they wore tan-brown robes, tight-fitting. Their skin was white, like a mushroom, and they had no clear features. They made no sound.

"Their faces had no texture or colour. I could see they had no hair, their foreheads were domed and their eyes were very large."

Travis says he tried to attack his captors with a piece of plastic pipe which he wrenched from its moorings. He had panicked about being on the craft (he called it a "spaceship") but the creatures evaded his onslaught. Then another, who seemed human, and who wore blue garb and a helmet, led him to another big, bright room that looked like a planetarium, with recognizable "galaxies." There was also a chair with buttons on one arm and a lever on the other. The being who had brought him there left the room, so Travis fiddled with the buttons, but only succeeded in changing the line-pattern on a small screen near the chair. Moving the lever, however, brought a different result: the scene outside suddenly changed. Travis said he became scared, and then the human-like being reappeared, and led him down a ramp into the open, where he saw other helmeted human-type beings, all dressed in blue. He also saw small grounded "space saucers" before being taken to another table. He was "eased on to it." Travis continued:

"I didn't struggle. They put a mask on my face. It was like an oxygen mask, and had a big black ball, like a golf ball, on top. Then things went black again.

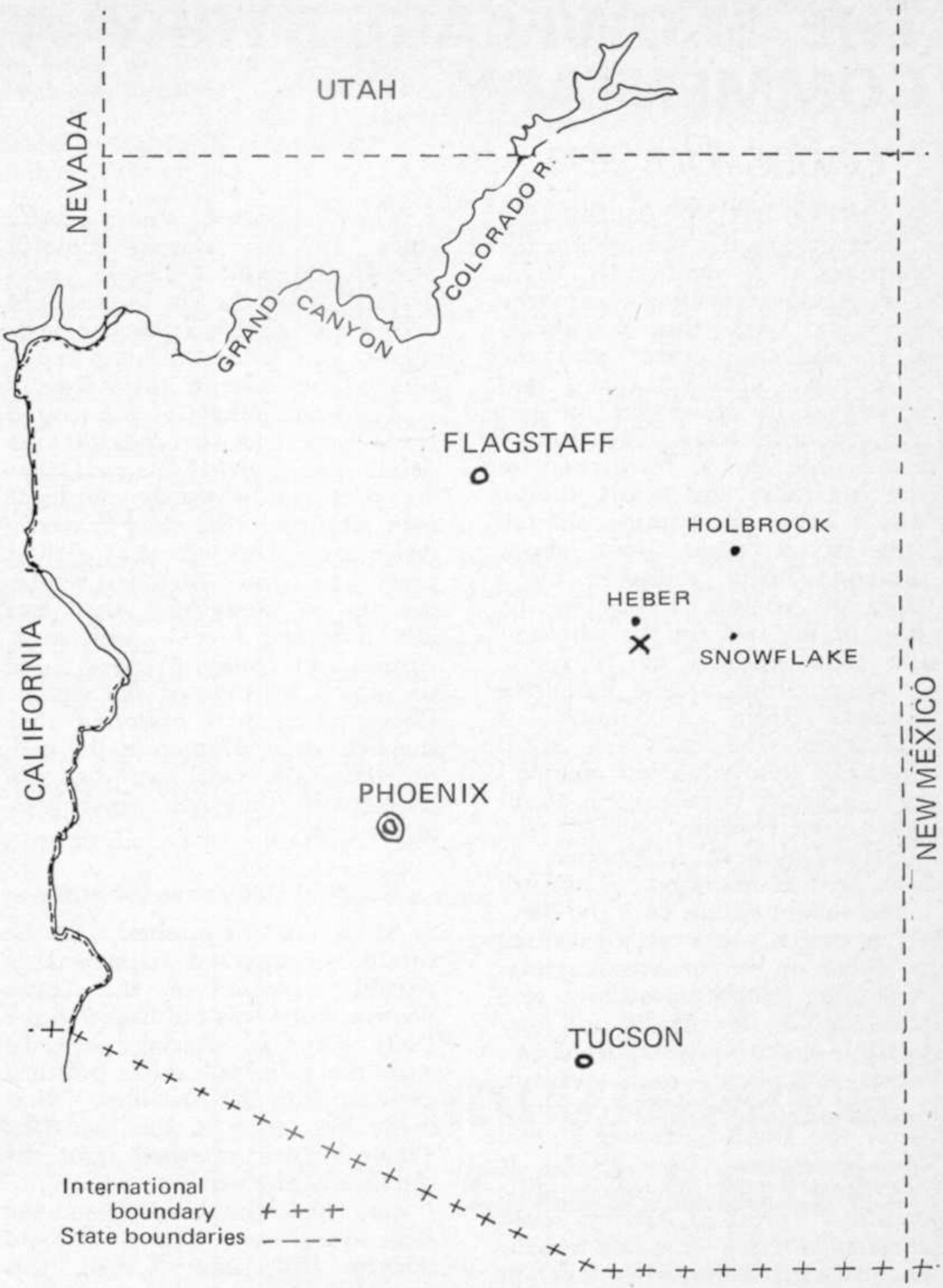
"When I woke up I was shaky. I was on the highway. It was black but the trees were lit up because just a few feet away was their saucer. I saw nobody. I was wearing my work clothes and I just ran until I came to a phone booth.

"I recognised I was at Heber (a village a few miles from Snowflake). It was dark everywhere. Nothing was open and I phoned my sister Alison. Then they came to get me.

"We went to my mother's house in Snowflake and I ate everything I could get my hands on. My mother cried when she saw me. I slowly told them my story. My mother and Duane believed me.

"Many people are too scared to believe me. I know they will say I'm deranged or I'm on drugs or fantasising. But I know what I saw.

"But I guess most of all I was angry. I just wasn't able to communicate with them. If only they'd answered my questions."



ARIZONA: SITE OF ALLEGED ABDUCTION MARKED X

Further testimony

In another item crew-boss Mike Rogers describes the flash of light, and how the guys screamed. "I saw Walton falling backwards. Nobody went to help him – in

fact they wanted to do the opposite. I hit the gas, and took off fast..."

Concluded Sheriff Gillespie: "I'm still baffled...maybe we'll give Travis a lie-detector test as well. A hoax? Who can say? I think the six witnesses who were given lie detector tests did see something they believed was a UFO, and I gotta say they did pass the test."

Other reports

I am indebted to Mrs. M. Lashway, Mr. F. Randall and other readers in the United States, who went me newspaper items on the Snowflake affair.

In the *Chicago Tribune* of November 26, 1975, four of Travis Walton's workmates were named. They were Michael Rogers, 28, the foreman; Ken Peterson, 26; Duane Smith, 17 (is this Travis Walton's brother? —C.B.), and Allen Dalis, 20, all of whom live in Snowflake. Five of the six passed the polygraph tests; the sixth test was inconclusive because, according to the examiner, the subject was 'overly agitated.'

Mike Rogers was driving the dual-cab truck on November 5, 1975, when the UFO was encountered. The *Tribune* article continues:

" 'There were seven of us — four in back, three in front. We spotted this thing in a clearing, about 25 yards from the road. It looked like two pie pans, one upside down, hovering about 15 feet above the ground,' Rogers said.

" 'It was about 15 feet in diameter, about 8 feet high, and it had some markings, but they were too complicated to describe.

" 'It was glowing all over — a yellowish white.

" 'It was twilight when we saw it, and it seemed to light up the area. I'd never seen anything like it before.'

"Rogers said Travis Walton jumped from the truck and ran toward the UFO when a bolt of bluish light emanated from the UFO and Travis fell.

" ' We all panicked and drove off,' Rogers said. 'When we came back, about 15 minutes later, Travis was gone and there were no signs of the UFO.' "

Experts' opinions

According to the same issue of the *Chicago Tribune*, Mrs. Coral Lorenzen, Secretary-treasurer of APRO, told the newspaper: 'From the evidence at hand we don't see how any hoax could have been perpetrated. We are convinced that something quite bizarre happened to Travis.'

A psychiatrist, Dr. Gene Rosenbaum of Durango, Colorado, said he and others performed 'a comprehensive battery of psychiatric and medical exams' on Walton, and added: 'Our conclusion, which was absolute, is that this young man is not lying, that there is no collusion involved.

'The results of psychiatric tests and hypnosis show he really believes these things, that he is not lying.' Dr. Rosenbaum added that urinalysis and blood tests indicated that Walton is not a drug user.

Mrs. Lorenzen said that Walton, under hypnosis, had provided details about the humanoid creatures that 'match unpublished descriptions APRO have received from other witnesses.'

"But (states the *Tribune* writer, Peter Reich) Walton refused to take a polygraph test offered by the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and has avoided newsmen."

Which brings us nicely to our final news item, and to a private report from Mrs. Mary Lashway, member of an investigatory team which had been on the scene before Travis Walton returned from his trip. The news item actually preceded the *Tribune* article by eleven days, but it arrived later, and threw an interesting, and quite different light on the subject.

Lack of co-operation

Indeed the *Phoenix Gazette* of November 15, 1975, in an article by Staff writer Sam Lowe, publishes a view expressed by Dr. Lester H. Steward, director of the Modern Hypnosis Instruction Center in Phoenix, Arizona. That view is that Travis Walton had probably been on a very different sort of trip, and was hallucinating. The story, he suggests, was a hoax — which are contrary to the views expressed later by Dr. Rosenbaum.

Dr. Steward spent two hours with Travis Walton and his brother on November 11, and they related their stories. They had come in for hypnosis experiments. In his interview in the *Gazette* with Sam Lowe, Dr. Steward continues:

" 'They stalled the hypnotist by demanding medical attention for Travis, but refused to leave my office to go to a lab.

" 'They wanted a complete physical, and they wanted it for free. It was like they were looking to me to provide them some financial assistance."

"But," continues Lowe, "When Steward arranged the medical exam, and the funds, he said the Waltons left his office hurriedly, and the only contact he has had with them has been two telephone conversations with Duane."

Dr. Steward, a teacher of treatment of drug absue at Mariposa Tech. said that the Waltons' decision to leave his office came after they had learned of his backbround.

Attemped private investigation

Dr. Steward is a consultant of the civilian investigation group, Ground Saucer Watch (GSW). Mrs. Mary Lashway, the secretary, gave details of the group's attempted investigation in a long letter to FSR dated November 22, 1975.

I understand that although the sheriff's office at first relegated the story to the "missing persons slot." GSW's director, Bill Spaulding, was called in to help by the law enforcement agencies at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday November 9. GSW field investigators from New Mexico were hastened to the site, and Mr. Spaulding reached the place by about 1.00 p.m. After more than four days the site was "too cold" for radiation readings; residual magnetism readings at 10 gauss were found, but spot checks of the peripheral area drew blanks.

So back to Snowflake, where

Bill Spaulding met other members of the Walton family. Said Mrs. Walton, crying: "My son is with God in a UFO." Duane, however, was emphatic that his brother would return, and said he was going to watch for him each night on the mountain.

It was on Tuesday, November 11, that Duane 'phoned to say that Travis had returned, that he had been dropped by "them" near the phone booth close to Heber, and that he was in bad shape.

We have to assume that Travis was first obliged to report to the sheriff, and that that was followed by the visit, accompanied by Duane, to the office of Dr. Lester Steward MD, PhD.

Dr. Steward said that Travis indeed looked as though he had been on a bender, and had lost 12 lbs in weight; that during his two hour chat with the brothers he said he had no intention, at that stage, of employing regression hypnosis.

The doctor confirmed the brothers' insistence on a medical (which would have cost at least $150), and that he had arranged this, and the finances, only to return to his office to find that they had left. Mrs. Lashway reports that it was at that stage that news came through that Dr. Hynek was supposed to be on his way: the brothers told Spaulding they had no wish to meet Hynek, a "military man!"

GSW pulled out of the circus when Travis and Duane failed to appear for further polygraph tests that had been arranged: they (GSW) had expended some $900 on their fruitless attempt at an investigation, and felt they couldn't continue any longer when the prime individual refused to co-operate in any way with people who wanted only to co-operate with him.

GSW suspected there may have been a genuine sighting, and that Travis could have been "zapped" by the light. They felt, however, that the rest did not fit the profile of a contact, or "specimen gathering," and they have records of several such investigations. They regret that one sensationalised bit of nonsense like this greatly harms the attempts by GSW and similarly-minded organisations and publications to make Ufology a respected science.

Mrs. Lashway added that in the original polygraph tests ordered by Sheriff Gillespie on the six woodcutters who left Travis to the UFO, they were asked:

i) Did you murder Travis? (Answer: No)
ii) Did you see him knocked to the ground? (Yes)
iii) Did you see an object? (Yes, etc.)
iv) Did you see him taken away? (No).

As they left Snowflake, the prevailing "buzz" was that the Waltons had signed for a substantial sum to give their full story to a newspaper. Could that have been the reason for their sudden reluctance (after having quit the doctor's office) to communicate any further with bona fide researchers?

Continuing the work of Charles Fort

in collecting and studying the ignored, anomalous and just plain curious phenomena things seen in, and falling out of the skies; land and sea monsters; poltergeists, ghosts and 'wild talents'; objects dug up that "shouldn't be there"; strange fires that eat people; feral children; pre-Columbian contacts; "mass hysteria"; 'anachronistic' technology; studies towards an inclusive phenomenological science; — and who knows what else?

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ON THE TRUE NATURE OF THE CLOSE PROXIMITY UFO SIGHTING

Aimé Michel

Translated from the French by Gordon Creighton

ACCORDING to the Gallup Poll of November 29, 1973, 11% of the adult population of the United States, i.e. 15,000,000, people claimed to have seen UFOs.[1]

I: The Statistics

While it is impressive, this Gallup finding enables us neither to know the true number of the objects seen (since several witnesses might have observed the same object, or a single witness might have observed several objects). Neither does it help us to know how many of these objects would have remained "unidentified" had they been observed by qualified individuals, nor does it tell us anything about the strangeness of the cases.

The study by Peter A. Sturrock,[2] professor of Astrophysics at Stanford University, gives us the answer to these areas of uncertainty. Sturrock's poll was in fact conducted among those individuals who, of all the individuals in the world, are the most fitted to be able to decide whether an object is or is not identifiable, namely the 1,175 members of the AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineers) in San Francisco. Sturrock gives the total number of such unidentified cases reported by them in his poll as twenty. The total number of witnesses was 33, of whom 17 were actual members of the AIAA. The number of cases with a very high strangeness rating was two.

Previously, such statistical studies[3] as had been done had shown that the probability of seeing a UFO is roughly the same for all categories of the population. If a difference exists between Sturrock's sampling and the population as a whole, it seems that we can predict that the following causes will be responsible for such variations:

(a) On the one hand the members of the AIAA ought to be expected to be more curious than most folk, and therefore more likely to look up at the sky, though this possible factor could play no role in the cases with a very high strangeness index, in which the witness cannot avoid seeing what he sees.

(b) The members of the AIAA are scientists who spend a great deal of their time beneath the roofs of laboratories or offices, and so must be presumed to be less often exposed to the opportunity of observing a UFO, and, above all, to the opportunity for encountering one of them on the ground in open country (which are the cases we are concerned with in this article).

So it would seem that prudence authorizes us to accept the findings of Sturrock as not going beyond – indeed rather to the contrary – those found for the population as a whole.

Numerical extent of the sample	1,175 individuals
Total No. of UFO sightings	20
No. of cases with very high index of strangness	2
Percentage total of cases for the sample	1.7%
Percentage of cases with very high strangeness	0.17%

Table I: Sturrock's Findings

The total adult population of the USA taken into consideration at the time of the 1973 Gallup Poll was about 136,000,000.

If we apply Sturrock's findings to this total population, we get the following results:

Total No. of true UFOs (1.7% of 1.36×10^8)	2,312,000
Total No. of UFOs of a very high strangeness	231,000

Table II: Real UFOs over the USA

There is nothing to suggest that the manifestations of the UFO phenomenon present any feature that is particular to the USA. On the contrary, all the studies made so far indicate the phenomenon's consistency and homogeneity throughout the world.[4] If therefore we apply Sturrock's findings to all the technologically advanced countries (there might of course be some disagreement as to precisely which countries would fall within this definition, but anyway their aggregate population would hardly total less than 1,300,000,000) we get the following results:

Total No. of true UFOs (1.7% of 1.3×10^9)	22.1×10^6
Total No. of UFOs with very high strangeness factor	2.21×10^6

Table III

Thus, on the basis of Sturrock's figures, we can say that up till now the total number of cases with very high strangeness index observed in the technologically advanced countries is over 2,000,000.

II: Discussion

Almost all the high strangeness index cases are of landings and very close proximity sightings.

In the advanced countries, the majority of people have a photographic camera, and many have a cine camera. They do not however by any means always have their photographic or cine camera with them at the time of a sighting. But the *opportunity* to get very close-up photos and films, that is to say photos and films of high quality, with plenty of detail, has so far occurred *over two million times* in these countries of advanced technology.

But we do not possess a single photograph or a single film of this sort [*close-up*—ED], whereas we ought to have had tens of thousands of them. We ought to have been in possession of a complete and extremely numerous stock of photos of objects standing on the ground, with their crews seen from the front, in profile, from behind, and engaged in all the activities which they have so often been described as performing. We ought to have films of all this. We have none. Panic, mistakes, forgetfulness, absence of camera at the right moment, can account for the fact that lots of opportunities have been missed. But that **all** should have been missed for these reasons is quite untenable.

The objection as concerns the very small number of eye-witnesses who reveal themselves is equally untenable. One witness who has only his own story to tell has excellent reasons for keeping his mouth shut, and if he does so, then his testimony does indeed remain unknown. But a photograph or a film are physical objects that go astray, get reproduced, get spread around, particularly when they are extraordinary. If we possess neither films nor photos it is because, out of the two million opportunities when they could have been taken, they have not been taken even one single time.

Explanation No. 1: *There are no UFOs, and all the stories about them are fabrications.*

This would mean that there have been over 2,000,000 fakers. Among these two millions of people, all professions (we know this from the statistics) are represented in proportion to their distribution in society. And so we have the right number of professional photographers, of professional fake photographers, and of professionals skilled in the production of special effects. And yet all these individuals, without any sort of collaboration together, have seemingly selected one sole type of fabrication, namely the *account, the narrative.*

It will perhaps be said that they have all abstained from taking photos or films because these are difficult to take. But:

1. Why should *all* of them abstain? Why aren't there thousands of badly faked photos and films, concocted by presumptuous hoaxers?
2. We have thousands of absurd and unskilful accounts. Why then not thousands of absurd and unskilful photos? (I would remind the reader that we are discussing here solely the cases with a very high strangeness index which, in terms of photography, means clear, detailed, close-up pictures.)
3. It is quite untrue that, for a professional, such fabrications would be difficult. And yet not a single one exists.

Not only is the hoax explanation untenable, but *the absence of visual fabrications teaches us something which seems to be fundamental, namely that all details relating to the close-encounter UFO phenomenon stem from one single source: the oral source, the account.*

Explanation No. 2: *The Close-Proximity UFO cannot be photographed.*

This can be understood in various ways: either that the phenomenon is not of a purely physical nature (but then what about the marks on the ground? What about the photos and films taken at a distance? What about the various channels of detection, by radar, by magnetometer, etc.?) *or that the close eyewitness is prevented from using his equipment.*

If he is prevented from using his equipment (which the cases I have studied dispose me to accept as the true explanation) then it must be that the witness is under psychic control, and that he is so without his knowing it. We have a number of cases in which, after the event, the witnesses discover that they "had not thought of using their camera," and find this oversight "inexplicable." And indeed it is inexplicable. Yet this "inexplicable" forgetfulness is the rule in our subject.

III: Further comments suggested by the statistics

From a statistical analysis based on the study of 831 landing cases with ground-traces, Ted Phillips has been able to establish that the average duration of landings is of the order of five minutes.[5]

If we accept that the total number of landings in the technologically advanced countries is 2,000,000, then we get a total duration of 10^7 minutes, or 19 years, during which a UFO has been standing on the ground somewhere in the technologically advanced countries and beneath the gaze of one or more eyewitnesses.

If we accept that the persons interrogated in the course of the polls are reporting cases which have occurred principally during the past quarter of a century, then we are obliged to conclude that *every day* a UFO is standing on the ground before the eyes of one or more witnesses for an average duration of 19 hours.

All these calculations (and others like them) show how inexplicable is the absence of photos or other close-up documentation on UFOs.

IV: By way of parenthesis

The basis taken in arriving at the considerations is the figures given by Sturrock, because these by themselves contain all the elements needed for the calculations. One may be tempted to put forward the objection that it is hazardous to base too much

on only one single sample. But we get the same results if we base ourselves on the most severe and most negative statistics, for example on the statistics previously issued by the U.S. Air Force, according to which only 2% of all UFOs remained unidentified. It is sufficient that the order of the number of witnesses is indeed the same as is given regularly by the opinion polls.

If only 2% (the lowest figure given by the U.S. Air Force) of the cases remain unidentified, then with 11% of the technologically advanced adult population as eyewitnesses, you still get 2,800,000 eyewitnesses of true UFOs. Let us estimate that out of this total the proportion of high strangeness cases amounts to 1% (which in fact seems unreasonably low if you examine the catalogues) then you are left with 28,000 cases. Even with these eyewitnesses, the absence of photographs and films remains inexplicable. Up till now I have managed to meet and interrogate five eyewitnesses of ball-lightning, and to compare this phenomenon of ball-lightning with a close-proximity sighting of a UFO. Ball-lightning seems much the rarer of the two phenomena, and it is more unexpected, and more fugitive, and more terrifying than a UFO. Nevertheless photographs of ball-lightning exist.

V: Initial Conclusions

For unknown reasons related to the nature of UFOs, all we know, or think we know, about what close-proximity observations of UFOs really are derives from one single source: the description given after the event by the people who were the close eyewitnesses. But it seems impossible to explain the statistics unless all the close-encounter eyewitnesses are under the psychic control of the UFO. (The only alternative explanation would be that UFOs can efface, at a distance, any documentary evidence of them that we can get. There are in fact a number of cases which do suggest such a possibility. But then why don't they efface all the long-range photos too?)

It seems therefore that we are obliged to confess that we are totally ignorant as to the true appearance and behaviour of UFOs seen from close proximity.

In my opinion, we shall only *perhaps* begin to have some idea of what a UFO really is when we are able to have at our disposal *impersonal witnesses* that present no means whereby a psychical control can be exercised (i.e., multi-functional detecting-stations, such as the one proposed by Poher.)

In the meanwhile, the accounts given by the eye-witnesses must continue to be gathered with care and to be considered, not as statements of the truth, but as effects of a close-proximity UFO sighting upon the human psychism. Maybe one day we shall discover a method for analyzing these accounts.

We do not know whether impersonal witnesses would be more successful than the human mind in escaping from control by a UFO. But since it is possible to make infinite modifications in such artificial devices (which is an impossibility with the human psyche) maybe it is by this means that the difficulty will one day be overcome. I confess I see no other way of doing it.

In my opinion, the facts as here set forth also oblige us to come to certain other conculsions, including some in domains far removed from Ufology. But it would seem wise that we should first of all examine the question and see whether these first conclusions of mine are solidly founded.

A.M. 29.9.75

Notes

1. *Gallup Results:* APRO Bulletin Vol.22, No.2, Sept.-Oct. 1973. (This publication is always antedated by several months.)
2. Sturrock, Peter A: "UFO Reports from AIAA Members". In *Astronautics and Aeronautics,* a publication of the American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics, Vol.12, No.5, May 1974, p.60.
3. See in particular the *Condon Report* and the Gallup Poll cited in Note 1.
4. Poher, Claude: (all in French) *Statistical Studies of One Thousand Sighting Accounts: Studies and Reflections on the UFO Phenomenon; Studies of the Correlations between Geomagnetic Readings and UFO Sighting Accounts.*
   See also David Saunders' *Ufocat*.
5. Phillips, Ted: "Physical Traces associated with UFO sightings" in *Bulletin of Center for UFO Studies, P.O. Box 11, Northfield, Illinois, 60093, USA (July 1975, p. 129).*

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BLYTHBURGH & SIZEWELL UFOs

Peter Johnson

Two reports compiled by our contributor, who lives in Norfolk, has been a reader for many years, and is a member of BUFORA. Other contributions on East Anglian cases by Mr. Johnson have appeared in *FSR Case Histories*.

KEITH PAYNE lives with his wife in a Showmans caravan at Blythburgh, Suffolk.

The caravan is situated on a promontory which juts out into Bulcamp Marshes. These consist of low-lying mudflats through the centre of which runs a small river named the Blyth. This river is tidal and, at high tide, the marshes are flooded.

Blythburgh report

At about 3.30 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, February 8, 1975, Mr. Payne was awakened by a deep humming noise. He got up and went outside the caravan to investigate.

It was a dark night and there was a slight mist over the marshes, but, on looking over the marsh in an easterly direction towards Southwold, he saw a bright red light. The light was reflected in the water but its outlines were indistinct due to the mist. Mr. Payne estimated that the light was about half a mile away and about forty feet above the water. The humming noise was coming from the light.

As Mr. Payne watched, the noise got louder and he noticed that the water under the object was illuminated by a white light but, in spite of the mist, there was no sign of a beam of light between the object and the illuminated patch on the water. He then called his wife out and they both watched the object for over an hour. They were then so cold that they went to bed and did not see the object leave.

The next day Mr. Payne went out to see if the object had left any trace but could see nothing to account for the sighting. He noticed that the spot where he estimated the object hovered lay on a line connecting the churches at Blythburgh and Southwold.

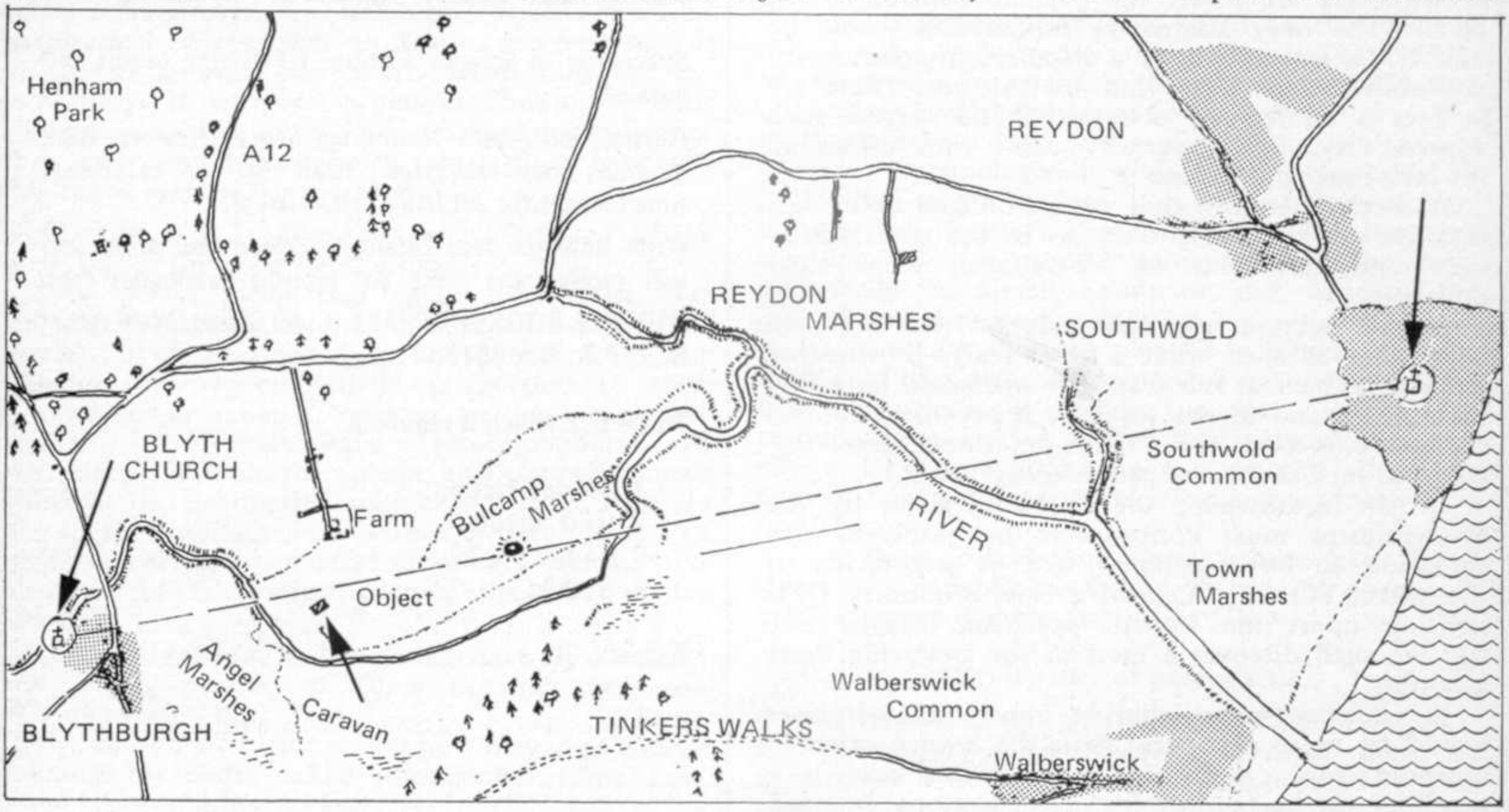
I interviewed Mr. Payne and took a tape recording of his account. He seems to me to be a truthful witness and I have no reason to doubt his story.

In spite of enquiring I could find no other witnesses, but in view of the time of the sighting this was not surprising.

Sizewell report

Just over a fortnight later there was another East Anglian UFO incident, again in Suffolk. As Sizewell is rather a long way from Sheringham, I asked Mr. M.K. Howe of Bury St. Edmunds, a BUFORA member, if he would investigate it for me — which he did, most excellently.

The report which follows has been compiled from Mr. Howe's verbatim report and additional



Sighting of February 8, 1975

information, from the completed BUFORA report form and a newspaper report in the *Leiston Observer.**

Mr. Thomas Meyer, a postal messenger, lives at Aldringham, Suffolk. Every evening at about 6.00 p.m. he takes his dog, Titus, for a walk.

On the evening of Monday, February 24, 1975, he was walking the dog along the beach at Sizewell. It was about 6.55 p.m. and the night was bright and clear with the moon just rising over the sea.

He was about 1¼ miles north of Sizewell Nuclear Power Station and was walking in the direction of Minsmere when he suddenly noticed what appeared to be a shooting star approaching from the North-East.

It was travelling very fast and in a few seconds it was near him. It looked like a big pumpkin, it was coloured green and yellow and had a luminous glow like a television screen.

The object stopped about 20 yards from him hovering about 6 feet above the ground, and remained stationary for about half-a-minute. It then sped away as quickly as it had arrived, in the direction from which it had come and soon disappeared.

During the period that the object was stationary in front of him Mr. Meyer stood transfixed.

He experienced a peculiar warm feeling and noticed a pungent acid smell which he likened to the smell of "acid" "drops".

The object made no noise and Mr. Meyer had the impression that it was rotating. He said that the outlines were quite clear and that it must have been a machine of some sort. It appeared to be about 12 feet in diameter but could have been larger and further away.

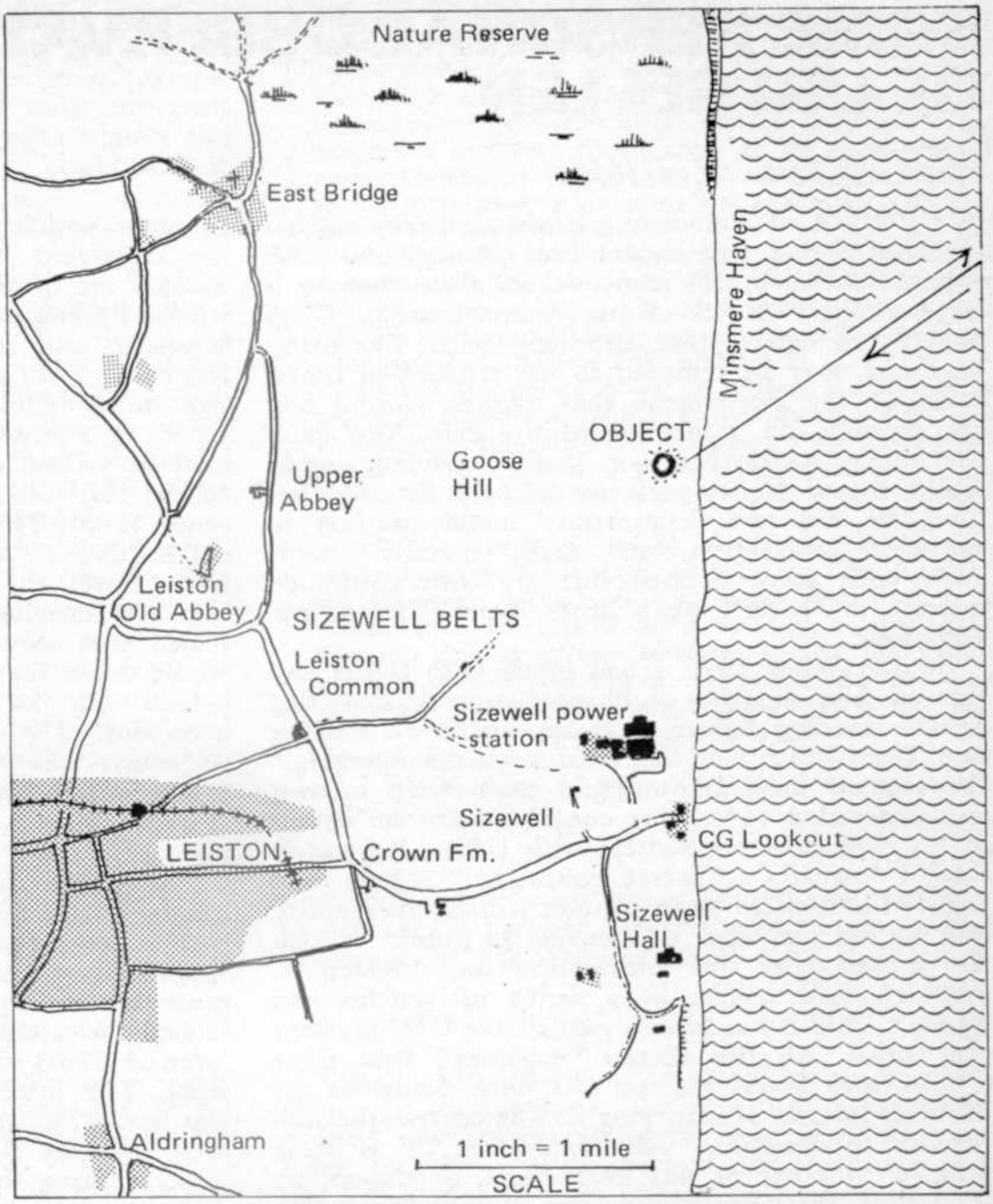
During the sighting his dog was trembling and cowered behind his legs and when the object had gone he ran away (something which he had never done before) and waited for his master at the Power Station.

Mr. Howe reports that Mr. Meyer is considered by his neighbours to be truthful and honest. Mr. Meyer is 62 years of age and has diplomas in British and European history. He had never believed in UFOs before his sighting, and has never read any books on the subject.

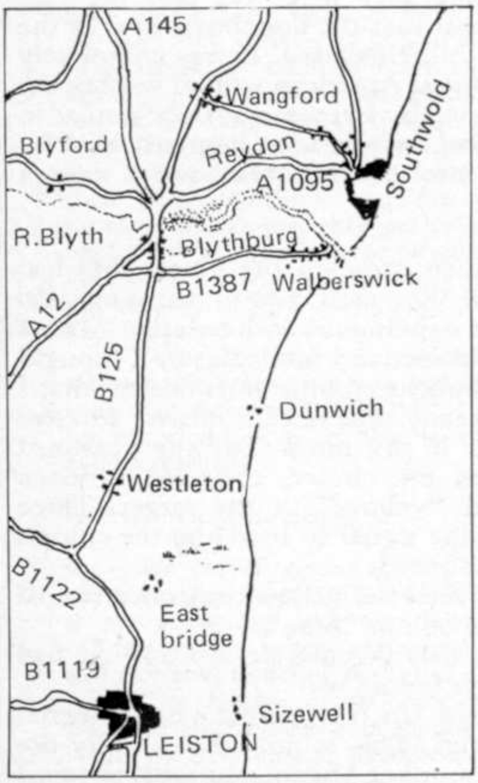
No other witnesses were found but, apparently, there had been some interference on local television screens at the exact time of the sighting.

Sheringham,
June 12, 1975

* Photocopies of all documents and maps have been lodged with FSR–EDITOR.



Sighting of February 24, 1975



Map showing location of Blythburg and Sizewell

SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF URI GELLER

Jacques Vallée

A NUMBER of American scientists are very excited about Geller and expect breakthroughs to arise out of his work, but many others claim that he is using trickery in all of his demonstrations. I am inclined to believe that although Geller, like many mediums, may be tempted to use trickery at times, some of the phenomena that happen around him are genuine. At a meeting of the Palo Alto Parapsychology Research Group that I attended, and at which I saw Geller perform publicly for the first time, he did not demonstrate metal bending to anyone's satisfaction, and many members went away with grave doubts. But my own continued interest in Geller's work arose from different observations.

In December 1972 I had lunch with Geller and showed him a series of Phoenician seals depicting priests standing before what appears to be a flying disc, from which God-like creatures were emerging.* Uri studied these photographs with much interest and proceeded to tell me confidentially the details of his own close encounters with UFOs. He was in fact, I learned, a "secret contactee," a man who believed himself to be in contact with an alien entity that he did not want to mention in public. A year and a half later this information was revealed by Puharich and others in a series of articles and books,† and it has been a part of the UFO mystery ever since. All the alleged "evidence" that these aricles and books contain has only deepened the problem instead of clarifying it. The central question remains to determine whether or not Uri is being *utilized*, whether or not he is used, or duped, by something that wants to appear as a higher entity.

During our discussion I asked Uri Geller if he thought he could contact the UFO entity again to obtain for us a real test case: a close observation of a flying saucer. He replied that in all his meetings with "them" the initiative for the contact had been with the "other side."

Later during our lunch Uri proposed to do telepathic experiments with me. It is this short series of tests that convinced me that his abilities were genuine. The very first test in the series contained an unusual aspect that precluded trickery. One of the physicists with whom Geller was working that day handed me a sealed envelope containing a card on which a target had been drawn. It was the outline of a whale spouting. I "sent" it to Uri by visualizing the drawing on a television-like screen which I scanned slowly, erasing it as I did so. Uri was to imagine a similar screen in his own mind and fill out the picture, but it failed at the first trial. We decided to start again, and this time my attention fell on a fountain which was clearly visible behind Uri, in the courtyard of the building. The fountain reminded me of the spout thrown into the air by the whale. I filled my mental television screen with the fountain, and sent that. Then I filled it with the form of a fish, and projected it a second time. Now Uri took a blank card and said, as he rapidly drew on it, "It's strange, I'm getting two things." On the card he passed around, he had drawn a fish. Next to the fish was a fountain. He thought it made no sense at all. This was a convincing test because it excluded the "collusion" hypothesis. How did I know, after all, that Uri had not managed to look into the envelope by trickery even before it was sealed that morning? But if he had done so, he would have drawn a single target. I was the only person who knew that two different targets had been sent!

Now I was taking Uri Geller more seriously. In the second experiment, he asked me to write a digit (I wrote down a figure eight) and a second one (nine) and then a third, larger. I wrote a figure two.

"Send me the last digit only," he said. And a moment later he had written a two (2) on a card. Not a completely foolproof case. He might have spent long and tedious hours training himself to read muscular motions at a distance – although I was facing him about five feet away – and could have inferred that I wrote a two by the movement of my wrist. The interesting fact here was that my "2" was hastily drawn and that the horizontal base of the digit was very flat and elongated. It was completely different from the usual American way of writing the digit. Now the drawing by Uri was not only similar to mine: it was *identical*, as was soon demonstrated by superimposing the two tracings. One was a carbon copy of the other.

The discussion then came to the events that had taken place at the Research Group meeting. Uri wanted to repeat an experiment with colours. "Think of a colour," he told me, and immediately I thought "blue." Indeed I thought of blue so suddenly that I assumed Uri had already selected the answer and had somehow planted it in my mind. For this reason, I deliberately changed my choice, reviewed a dozen colours and picked "yellow" as the target. Three times Uri gave me the signal to send him the colour. Then he calmly announced:

– The colour I receive is yellow, but once out of three times I got the colour "blue".

By this time we had finished dessert and we had empty ice cream cups before us.

– You know, said Uri, everything you've seen... Those are little things. This is not what I really do. My speciality is to produce phenomena with physical objects. For example, take a spoon...

With these words he touched, barely touched, the

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* See FSR Vol.19 No.1.

† In particular in Puharich's book, *Uri*, Doubleday 1974 (U.S.A.) and W.H. Allen (London).

spoon in his cup, and he jumped back as if he had touched a snake. He reached for the spoon again and showed it to us. It was bent three times, literally folded back against the handle. I took my own spoon and bent it with all my strength against the edge of the table: there was no way I could bend it to twist the wider part of it.

The Dark Satellite

Many people have witnessed this kind of demonstration, and many have been puzzled by it. An extremely gifted magician could, under carefully-staged conditions, duplicate this. But the incident was particularly interesting to me for a rather personal reason. Ten years earlier I had published a science-fiction novel in French entitled *The Dark Satellite*. In that story the earth, and indeed the whole solar system, was being attacked by a hypothetical form of life that emerged from the subatomic level. The attack upon our universe was manifested by a sudden change in the appearance of common objects. In one of the most dramatic moments in my novel, a young French scientist was stirring his cup of coffee, wondering how to save himself and his fellow-men from disaster, when *his own spoon literally started bending and changing shape in his hand!*

> Already I was enjoying the thought of a world liberated from its psychic parasite...when all of a sudden my eyes – warned by what instictive impulse? – became fixed to the spoon I was using to stir my cup of coffee.
>
> In a flash, a curious backfiring of my memory brought an image of my old friend Nivgorod, who used to give us endless dissertations about the Known and the Unknown, starting precisely, from the example of a spoon:
>
> – People, he would say, regard the Known as a wide, well- lit territory, squarely ruled and organized. We run no risk, they believe, as long as we stay within this area of neatness, of calm, of respectability. The role of our scientists, researchers and poets, is to keep pushing farther and farther away from us this circle of shadows...
>
> – Yes, this is what people think...They have to be able to regard Science as a fortress behind whose walls their petty individual stupidity can quietly retreat in slumber! That's why they get so mad at the "intellectual egg-heads" as soon as some physical phenomenon, astronomical or otherwise, is so bold as to bring havoc upon the serenity of their preferences, the proper state of their houshold or the mortality of their customs!
>
> – Come on Messrs. Scientists! They can be heard to clamour. We are paying you and fattening you while you were idly enjoying the clouds of your reveries. But now we are afraid: Explain this to us! Get to work, fast, and reassure us!
>
> And the scientists answer:
>
> – We cannot reassure you, we cannot explain this thing to you, because WE DON'T KNOW. The Known is not a country with nice borders, and nice customs officers wearing pretty uniforms to defend those borders, and nice laws to define the rules.
>
> – The known of an object is only its perceptible fraction, and indeed you should learn that the Object itself, the real Object plunges deep into the unknown, even as the mass of an iceberg goes deep under the surface of the sea.
>
> – That's why WE DON'T UNDERSTAND. Alexis Nivgorod went on. And it is at that moment that he would take his spoon and point it at us as an ancient sword, saying:
>
> – The borders of the unknown are not situated fifteen billion light-years away, which is as far as our best telescopes can see; the borders of the unknown are situated within us, in our hearts, in our souls, in our eyes, in our loves, as they are in the star and inside the atom, and *even in this little spoon.*
>
> That is why the exact sciences have become occult sciences, or rather sciences OF THE OCCULT; for no one has ever seen a proton, and no physicist worth his salt will ever tell you: "This spoon exists and it is made of aluminium and I KNOW THIS SPOON."
>
> Instead the physicist will say: "Here is a spoon the existence of which I admit as an hypothesis, because that is the only explanation for the image I get through my eyes and the sensation it provides as I touch it. From that basis I can say that I know a part of this object, a very tiny part.
>
> "But for its deeper reality, as it concerns what goes on in the secret fluctuations of its atoms, I must confess my ignorance. My science stops where Matter stops: at the neutron. The rest of the story I may be able to tell you in a century or two. In the mean time, don't think about it and stir your cup of coffee. But do not hold me responsible if the spoon turns into a dragon to bite you, into a woman to seduce you or into radiation to pierce you through and through..."
>
> I was thinking of Nivgorod because my spoon was getting larger..."

The book from which this is quoted was published by Denoel, in Paris, in 1962, in a collection entitled "Presence of the Future." And then Uri Geller...

* * * * *

Listening to Uri as he "explains" his power is very similar to reading those old records by a nineteenth century medium describing the source of his knowledge. In both cases we are told that the power does not lie within the man himself, but emanates from one of two sources, either a higher spiritual center or a race of extra-terrestrial beings. What are the consequences of taking such a statement at face value? We would have to assume that a higher intelligence is not only cognizant of our existence and development here on earth, but has decided to interfere with human affairs. Why would it choose to manifest itself through a man like Uri Geller, who delights in the confusion into which he throws his scientific supporters every time he is "exposed"? Is it true that we are necessarily dealing with the same entity that is responsible for the sightings of unidentified flying objects?

This line of speculation has led some scientists to wonder whether Geller was not the latest in a series of artifacts released among the human race by a higher agency. Geller himself, it seems, would like us to believe that this is the case. It is not my intention to discuss here all the observations that psychic researchers have made in the last two or three years with respect to UFO phenomena correlated with their work. I do believe that a change is taking place among scientists, a climate is being

(continued on page 16)

THE ANTHROPOMORPHIC PHENOMENA AT SANTA ISABEL – PART 3

Oscar A. Galíndez

Dr. Galíndez, a lawyer, is FSR Representative in Argentina, and Founder of CADIU (Córdoba), the Argentine UFO Research Group. Translation by Gordon Creighton

THE final episode involving the presence of anthropomorphic entities in the Santa Isabel plant occurred four hours after the first Moreno incident, and resembles it in significant features.

C. The Third Anthropomorphic Phenomenon

1: Details regarding the witness: This third witness is Sr. Luftolde Rodríguez, aged 52. He is a truck-driver for the Egea firm. His job is to transport technical machinery to the Ika-Renault concern. He is a simple man, of little education (third grade of primary school), but he speaks of his experience with much conviction. (Photograph 12.)

2: The circumstances of the sighting: At about 3.40 a.m. on September 28, 1972, Sr. Rodríguez was driving in his 1957 Dodge truck and had gone across into the extreme north-eastern corner of the Ika-Renault plant (see Fig.1).* Here he was to unload some sheet-metal trimmings, and he did so accordingly. The Dodge is a tip-truck. He was about to make his way back when he noticed that the whole area around was lit up. Someone was approaching on foot from behind, on the right-hand side of the truck. He looked out through the side-window in that direction and saw – in profile – the torso of a person who was very tall, for he was not able to see the head. Only when this person had got as far as the right wing of the truck was he able to have a good view of him, through the windscreen. At that point the being stopped, did a right-about turn, and looked at him. Then he did another about-turn and walked straight on. Rodríguez noted that the movement did not look natural, since it was not the head that turned around, but the whole torso, together with the arms.

As the person walked off (which he did slowly) he headed off diagonally across the road towards the left (see Fig.7) and vanished behind some metal frames.

3. Description of the Entity: If we take as a yard-stick some boxes that were stacked on the metal frames, the mean height of the entity must have been in the neighbourhood of 2.5 metres. His features moreover are very similar to those described by Moreno. He was bald, with the top and back part of the head flattened; long erect ears passing some two cm. or so beyond the cranium. He had no eyelids, eyelashes or eyebrows. His complexion was very white. The eyes were round and luminous. The nose was straight, with flat sides. The mouth was small (Rodríguez thinks he can see a resemblance to the type of lip described in the Villa Santina case). The entity was dressed in a bluish-green one-piece garment that looked plastic and was luminescent. The build of the body was robust, although it looked unnatural (as though it were a cuirass).

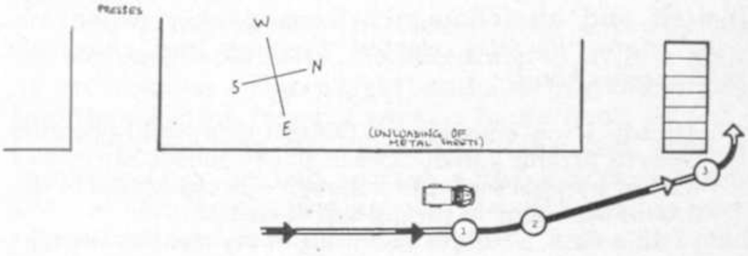


Fig.7. Plan of the area where the third observation of the entity (by Sr. Rodriguez) was made.

The legs and arms were extremely long. In his left hand he displayed something that looked like a billiard-ball, which was permanently emitting a very white light. The right arm was drawn back somewhat. He was wearing a wide, silvery belt, with a little box or casket of the same colour on the right-hand side.

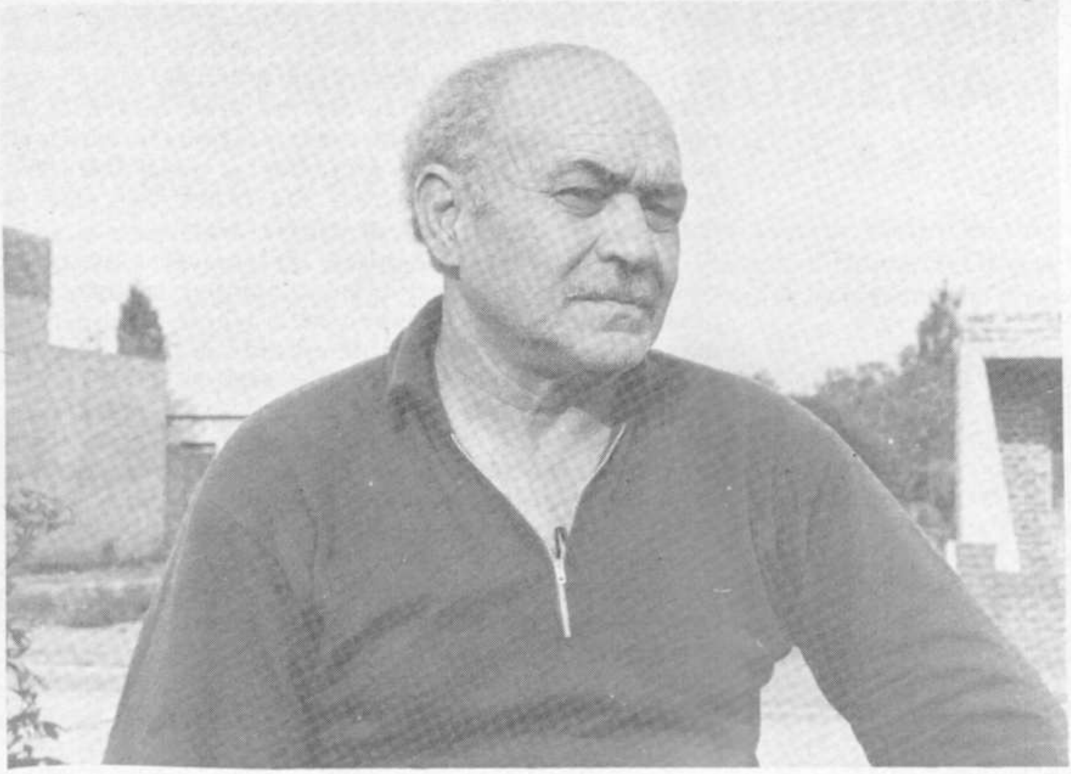
On both wrists Rodríguez could see silvery-coloured clasps some 10 cm. or so wide. The boots were also silver-coloured, with a sort of crease on the tops. The bottoms of the feet were thick and rectangular (see Fig.8). He did not bend his knees as he walked. Each time he put a foot forward he leaned slightly in the opposite direction. The duration of the sighting Rodríguez estimated at between one minute and one minute thirty seconds.

4. Accompanying features of the sighting:

a) At the point marked (2) in Fig.7, the engine of the truck stopped, *its lights went out*, and the lights on the right-hand side of the road also went out.

b) Rodríguez felt a humming noise in his ears, like the sound of bees.

* In FSR Vol.21, No.2



Sr. Luftolde Rodriguez, a truck driver, who became the third person to witness the Santa Isabel entity

c) He was unable to move his hands. He was as though *immobilized* in his seat.
d) The truck *vibrated*, to such a degree that a transistor radio which (turned on) was on the dashboard fell off and was damaged. (Just before the apparition of the entity, the set had given out a loud bang and had stopped working.)

When the entity had gone off to a distance of some 25-30 metres (point 3 on Fig.7), all these effects automatically vanished.

5. Changes which came after the sighting: After the figure had disappeared behind the frames, Sr. Rodríguez remained sitting there for two or three minutes, as though stunned, utterly unable to think of anything to do. Some workers came over to the truck, and asked him why he did not go to pick up the load that was waiting for him in a nearby shop (the Pressing Section). Then he told them what had happened to him. They made a search of the area, but found no trace of the entity.

6. Comparative Analysis:
a) *Merlo Case:* similarity in the shape of the lips.
b) *Moreno Case:* apart from the lips, as mentioned under a), the rest of the details fit completely.
c) *The Easter Island Moais:* a striking resemblance (photo No.11).
d) *The Carlos Paz Case (Señorita Pretzel):*[9] The only similarity lay in the fact that the entity had a luminous sphere in his left hand.

Other Witnesses

As the months went by and as the investigation got into its stride, we came to learn of corroborative occurrences which strengthened the impression that something truly right out of the ordinary had happened in the closing days of September 1972. Unfortunately, our own professional obligations have prevented us from dedicating ourselves more completely to the search for other witnesses to the phenomena at Santa Isabel. The well known fear of ridicule must have induced some of them to keep silent about their experiences. We were able to verify this for ourselves in the course of our re-enactment *"in situ"* of these happenings, when a number of workers told us that they knew other people who not only have seen the entity but had also observed an unidentified flying object overhead. As the persons in question were folk who occupied posts in the administrative establishment of the firm, they had evidently decided not to make their personal sightings public. We were eventually told about one official of the plant – our informant knew his name – who, during the night of September 27, had seen a luminous object drawing up, by means of a luminous tube, a figure with precisely the features reported by both Moreno and Rodríguez. Despite the guarantees of discretion that we conveyed to that person via the helpful third-party, the eyewitness, whoever he was, declined to agree to meet us.

In addition to these rumours, which relate solely to personnel of the Santa Isabel plant, I ought also to mention that we received reports of other sightings unconnected with Santa Isabel, namely:–
a) A lady named Quiroga (a householder in the near vicinity of the Santa Isabel plant) saw, at about 11.30 p.m. on September 27, 1972, a luminous object which, by means of "a crystal tube," picked up a "person" of humanoid appearance from that very quarter. (Here again we were unable to secure confirmation of this report.)
b) Sr. Norberto Grosso, a householder in Barrio Colón (suburb of Córdoba) was driving in his car, accompanied by his wife, when, between 11.30 and 11.45 p.m., on September 27, he saw a luminous body rising up from the Santa Isabel plant. At first – as he admitted to us – he took it for a sonde

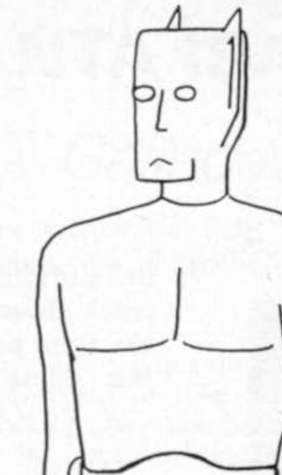


Fig.8 The entity as described by Rodriguez

balloon, but he was forcibly struck by the speed with which it climbed into the sky and vanished vertically "in fractions of seconds."

c) Many residents of Villa El Libertador (the suburb adjacent to the Santa Isabel works) told us that, at around midnight on September 27, they had seen a luminous globe ascending rapidly from the south-eastern area of Córdoba. (The Ika-Renault Plant is located in the south-eastern part of Cordoba.)

E. Conclusions regarding the Santa Isabel phenomena

We believe that these facts are eloquent and entail features which render them of great significance. *The various eyewitnesses were unknown to each other.* They are sincere folk. Both in their gestures and in their accounts to us, as well as in the astonishment written on their features, the truthfulness of what they were saying never failed to come through. The "identikits" made by them agree in numerous respects and especially as regards the height of the entity, the ears, and the whitish colours of its complexion. And although it is a fact that the experiences described by Moreno and Rodriguez produced far more close anatomical analogies than did the story of Merlo, it is right to bear in mind that the conditions in which the latter had his sighting were not as good for seeing as the conditions in which the other two saw the entity.

The existence of other, independent witnesses confirms our verification of a number of unwonted phenomena which — taken as a whole — constitute maybe the most remarkable episode sequence to have occurred in Argentina in the matter of anthropomorphic manifestations of an unknown nature. Our science is unable to explain the causes which govern their occurrence. But we have no doubt whatsoever as to their objective reality, and, as a body of new empirical data, they call for the employment of adequate methods of study such as will enable us to establish certain yardsticks or significant trends. Only thus shall we make progress in our work of investigation.

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9. Bowen, Charles, *Strangers about the House*, in FSR, September/October 1968, p. 10–12.

(continued from page 13)

created in which it becomes permissible to hypothesize the existence of paranormal effects. This is probably good. But there are also dangers in this shift of attitudes from scepticism to belief.

The two extremes of secrecy and openness, of rejection and worship, of hasty ridicule and obedient admiration, combine to decrease our chances of discovering the truth, not only in the matter of unidentified flying objects but in the matter of the forces that control paranormal "coincidences" — including the coincidences that seem to accompany Uri wherever he goes.

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CONCERNING THE PROFOUND UNITY OF PARANORMAL PHENOMENA

Pierre Guérin

This is a welcome return to the pages of FSR by Dr. Guérin, Maître de Recherche au Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. (Principal Research Officer in the French National Centre for Scientific Researc.) Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton

THOSE scientists who are deeply attached to the idea of credibility, and who have tried to prove experimentally the reality of PSI phenomena, have gradually abandoned their attempts at experimentation with mediums, miracle-workers, and other exceptional paragnosts (all too frequently accused of fraud), and now confine their experimenting to Mr. Everyman, whose paranormal aptitudes are in general far less developed and almost unknown to or disregarded by, the subject himself. (Who, on that account, has no reasons for making it a point of honour to preserve his own prestige at all costs in case of failure, and so makes no attempt to cheat.) Consequently his individual performances – generally limited to divination, and more rarely to psychokinesis (throwing dice, etc.) – usually are but little better than what one might expect from the laws of chance, so that they can only be assessed after a long series of tests by means of statistical analysis of the results obtained.

For the past forty years, so-called "serious" parapsychology has in essence been confined to this (plus the more recent experimentation with animals) without, one might add, the proffering of any clear physical model throughout all this period of time such as might account for the phenomena observed (which seem indeed in reality to imply something that goes beyond our common or garden notions of soace and time, and without any opponent of the reality of those phenomena having been willing to admit himself in error).

In fact, whatever the probative value of the above-mentioned statistical results (which value, so far as I am concerned, is sufficient) those results cannot be acceptable to the impenitent scientist who swears only by the ordinary concepts of classical physics as taught at the present time. For, according to these ordinary concepts, a simple act of "telepathy' without the support of propagation by electromagnetic wave, is just as impossible as a coffee pot flying about in a haunted house, as a miracle at Lourdes, or as any action whatsoever on objects at a distance or on material phenomena solely through the agency of the "power" of the mind.[1]

It is true that there has been a recent attempt, due to the theoretical physicist O. Costa de Beauregard, and the first of its kind and foreshadowing a new revolution in physics such as might lead to a fundamental revision of our concepts of space and time and maybe serve as a basis for explanatory models for PSI phenomena. Should such be the case, parapsychology, from being purely "judicial" as it has been up till now (the gathering of the facts, and proofs of their reality) would at last become an entire separate science, based upon confrontation between physical models and the observations. However, matters have not yet got that far, and the forward-looking views of Costa de Beauregard and his other advanced theoretical physicist colleagues do not yet constitute recognized and established scientific facts. Consequently their views are still foreign to the current preoccupations of most of the members of the scientific community, of whom very few in any case are possessed of the training in mathematics and physics that are necessary if one is to be up to the task of assimilating those views.

All the above-mentioned reasons work to bring it about that, quite contrarily to what, all too often, the non-scientists believe, parapsychology has scarcely won any advances in respectability in traditional scientific circles over the past two decades, despite the forward positions taken up by the majority of its scientific defenders in connexion with those individuals who claim to be able to achieve the most "extraordinary" paranormal feats.

It is my view therefore that nothing will be lost – even if we want to do the job seriously – by stepping out of the phony "reasonable" and "reassuring" framework in which laboratory parapsychology has tried to stay hitherto, and by studying certain features displayed by the paranormal in those of its manifestations that are alleged to be most contrary to common and everyday reason. To put it more precisely, I consider that we ought to investigate the question of whether (as seems at first sight to be the case) these alleged manifestations present themselves in the form of a disparate hotchpotch of facts or narratives devoid of any link or whether, on the contrary, these facts or these narratives turn out under analysis to present a certain number of common characteristics or *constants*, as they are called, such as would provide evidence of the profound unity of everything that is related, be it closely or be it distantly, to the paranormal.

* * * * *

What then shall we classify under the paranormal, and, more particularly, under the "preposterously" paranormal? Without indulging in "black humour," we can make a start by consulting the publications of the Union Rationaliste (Rationalist Union)* – and in particular the series of books known as *Les Cahiers Rationalistes* – with a view to drawing up a list

which, if not exhaustive, will at any rate be full of "accursed" phenomena that no rational, scientifically inclined man can pronounce to be anything but physically impossible, and consequently illusory. We will catalogue them as follows:

1. Miracles performed, during their lifetime, by the Saints — commencing with those attributed to Christ in the Gospels;[2]
2. Miracles associated with certain geographical sites such as Lourdes (and which are frequently attributed to the intervention of such and such a Saint, which brings us back to Category 1);
3. Paranormal physiological actions (healings by the laying on of hands, etc.) performed by laymen;
4. Paranormal physical actions (levitations, psychokinetic effects, etc.) performed by laymen;
5. The so-called phenomena of possession and of haunting;
6. Communications with the Dead;
7. Communications with the Extraterrestrials — not to mention the sheer physical miracle represented by the "flying saucer" itself, since, from the descriptions which have been given of it, it defies the laws of inertia and even seems to be able to appear and disappear on the spot!

In compiling this list, I refrain from pronouncing any personal opinion as to the reality of the phenomena named (at any rate at this stage in the discussion), and even less do I voice an opinion as to validity of the interpretations of such phenomena as are generally given by those who believe in them. I simply cite the phenomena, that is all. It now remains for us to investigate and see whether these phenomena might possibly possess common features, judging from the descriptions which have been given of them.

At first sight one might be tempted, already at the outset, to make a fundamental distinction between physical and physiological phenomena (levitations of persons, displacements of objects, healings, etc.) and the receptions of "messages" emanating from various Entities (spiritual or physical), living or dead). However such a distinction does not in fact seem to me to be justified. For, almost always, the very gifted indidivuals who heal, produce levitations, and act in a more general fashion by means of PSI effects on living or inert matter, are scarcely aware of possessing more paranormal gifts than the average run of people, and they say that they receive their "powers" from a more or less invisible transcendant Entity, who speaks and acts through them. Such was the case with Christ, whose powers were conferred by his Father. It is also the case with Uri Geller[3], who claims that his powers do not belong to him himself, though he admits that he is incapable of saying from precisely Whom he has them (but among those around him we hear it asserted that it is from the Extraterrestrials!). And, again, such is also the case with very many healers, among whom I shall cite the famous Alalouf† (I received these details from Aimé Michel, who had already made a protracted study of the healer Alalouf). It can sometimes happen that the feeling of being "operated" by an invisible Entity (or of serving as a mediator with It) is not experienced so clearly by the subject. Nevertheless it is a constant feature that the latter perceives that his own will plays precisely no part whatsoever in triggering off the phenomena. This is especially true of the Saints who have levitated, just as much as it is of those who have been possessed or have been agents in the phenomena of haunting.

If we now direct our attention to those persons who are given to the reception of "messages," we are able to note that, generally speaking, these individuals possess other paranormal gifts, of varying degrees of development, or are capable of acquiring such. This fact is well known in the cases of mediums, and I will add (for my own experience in the domain of Ufology permits me to assert this) that it is also generally true of those who are "contactees" of Extraterrestrials — that is to say, of individuals who claim to have approached a landed UFO, and to have received a message from the occupants of that UFO. Here again we are faced with the problem of Entities of a more or less transcendental nature (alleged Dead or alleged Extraterrestrials) who make contact with human individuals claiming paranormal gifts.

The first common feature to be noted in all these alleged phenomena is thus, so it seems to me, the determining role played in the affair by this or that Entity or Power from the Beyond or from Outer Space, and not belonging to our world, and manifesting itself to us indirectly, through the individual apparently endowed with powers.

Having arrived at this point, one will perhaps be tempted, if one is a Christian, to draw a distinction between the miraculous acts attributed to God or to His Saints, who are always orientated towards Good, and the acts of the Devil (particularly the cases of diabolical possession) which are grinning, grotesque, and mendacious. Such, at any rate, is the official doctrine of the Church on this point. I am sorry however to have to refute, or at the very least, to sweeten up this distinction very considerably. To begin with, how are we going to classify those cases which nobody, even in the Church, would dream of attributing to either God or the Devil? For example, the cases of haunting where there is no question of a need for exorcism? But these cases are in fact the majority, both in our day, and no doubt in past times too. Then again, as regards the grotesque aspect (traditionally attributed to Satan) I would be glad if someone could tell me how absurd and uncontrolled levitation on the part of a little nun, who cannot help it and is absolutely flummoxed and gets a dressing-down from her Mother Superior, is in any way exempt from being grotesque?+ For a manifestation of this sort, which seems to be one of the possible consequences of the mystical state and consequently could scarcely be attributed to the Devil is — let us admit it — particularly ridiculous and has nothing specifically edifying about it...Moreover, the invariable policy of the Church has always been to refuse to give any publicity to happenings of this sort.

The real fact of the matter is that *the grotesque*

appears as an extremely widespread feature in all paranormal phenomena, and it is here that we have the second common characteristic that links all these phenomena. We find the grotesque in the levitating Saint and also in the modern-day miracle worker who, from a distance, bends spoons and keys in people's homes (why put on such a circus act as this, when there could be so many more deserving and worthy miracles were one genuinely seeking to convince...?). Again we encounter the grotesque in the "haunted house" where the coffee-pots fly around, where raps and thumps are heard, and where a young girl undergoing the crisis of puberty, completely unaware of the role she is playing pardon me: the role that an Entity is making her play) in the triggering-off of these phenomena, will cease to cause them once she has become a woman, without there having been any need to drive out the Devil. And finally, the grotesque is to be seen in the pompous nonsense purveyed to mediums by the Dead, and to the flying saucer "contactees" by the alleged Extraterrestrials...

One would not, to be sure, want to describe a miraculous healing as *grotesque*. Nevertheless, while the healing in itself is a very beautiful thing, it must be admitted that the concomitant features in such cases involve factors likely to annoy and irritate an open-minded person who is seeking to observe and to comprehend, making use of his Reason. And this observation plunges us into the very heart of the problem of all this disparate paranormal phenomena. For here lies the third feature that they all possess in common. *They display a fundamental aversion to consenting to any direct verifications at the moment of their occurrence*. We can establish their results easily enough, sometimes we can observe them as they are being enacted, but in general we cannot reduce them to any sort of control.

In his book on cases of hauntings, Gendarmerie Commandant Tizané reports that objects take flight at the precise moment when they are not being watched, and it is just the same with the projectiles (stones, gravel) which arrive from nowhere and which fall from the ceiling in a room with all its entrances closed: we see them falling (when they have already started their downward movement), but we never see them start. This "tricky" and unco-operative nature of the phenomenon is precisely the same as we encounter with the UFOs. And it crops up again, in another form, in the individuals who are endowed with paranormal powers, *all* of whom simply detest the application of any kind of control to them. Moreover their powers quite frequently vanish when an attempt is made to verify them — this of course to the great joy of the "rationalists," who obviously use it as an argument against the reality of the said paranormal powers. We are informed by very many miracle-workers and mediums that this is in fact *intentional*. Quite recently, to quote another case, a well-known composer who has discovered that he has the gift of automatic writing, and has communicated in this fashion with a young hotel lift-operator who died a few years ago, was told the following by the lift-operator:

"These verifications that you want to make regarding my past life are untimely, we don't like them, we are opposed to them. Furthermore they are of no importance and in any case would never convince the sceptics.[5] Be content to trust in us..."

"But you have already lied to me on such an such an occasion," replied our medium, hungry for certitudes. I have no doubt he has had to remain hungry!

Many of the "messages" left behind by the "Extraterrestrials" say more or less the same thing. Sometimes it even happens that the "contactee" states that the occupants of the UFO have forbidden him to divulge the message and that, despite all his efforts, sometimes quite moving, he is unable to transgress this order, as though he were a plaything controlled by hypnotic suggestion. Let us add moreover that a further element of confusion is also introduced by the fact that, when transmitted through different eyewitnesses, these "messages" emanating allegedly from "Extraterrestrials" generally turn out to be mutually contradictory even when they do not run counter to our best established knowledge in matters of such things as Astronomy and Ufology. Obviously all this contributes to the sowing of confusion, and acts in the same way as a refusal to permit any kind of verification.

But without question it is Jesus Christ himself to whom we are indebted for the finest illustration of this type of refusal so shocking to every scientific mind. Alluding to the cohort of poorly educated or illiterate individuals who constituted his retinue and his public, did not Jesus declare on one occasion,[6] "I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." That is to say, as we would put it in modern terminology; thanks for having hidden all these things from the learned and the proud, and for having revealed them to the humble and ignorant. Yes, indeed! For having hidden it from the learned! It couldn't have been put more plainly. And the same policy is still being pursued in our own times, in a fashion that is scarcely any different. Hasn't Uri Geller just objected to any sort of controls during his latest visit to Paris? As it so happens, certain of these controls had not been proposed by unbelieving "rationalists," but by scientists well acquainted with the reality of PSI phenomena. Let us repeat it again to ourselves once and for all time: the scientist, the proud man, these are not to probe too deeply into such matters. We have already been told as much two thousand years ago...

* * * * *

And so, it seems, the situation still remains. And we can now sum up what we have said above: namely that, beneath diverse forms, one same, single paranormal phenomenon executes incursions from time to time into this physical world which we hold to be rational, while always carefully refraining from leaving behind any absolutely indisputable direct proofs of its reality. Consequently we are unable to form any judgement as to its reality except through

an individual study of the best eyewitness accounts and a careful comparison of them (so long as they are independent of one another and not influenced the one by another). Such a comparison brings to light these concordances and similarities which I have set forth above, and is an argument in favour of the reality, and, above all, of the single and undivided nature of the phenomenon, but still without telling us what it is, nor Who it is, that manipulates us through it.

God, the Devil, the Dead, the Extraterrestrials, etc., etc., all these are but the successive names given by the Entities – or the Entity – responsible for the phenomenon.

Unless of course it be we ourselves who have given these names...For why might we not equally well evoke the manifestation of some "Collective Unconscious" endowed in these circumstances with powers over matter? Or again it might be something entirely different, something that we are incapable even of imagining in the present state of our scientific and philosophical preoccupations. In my view we are not at present capable of furnishing an answer...My own personal inclination would be in favour of an intervention into the affairs of men from outside, but in support of such a thesis I can only furnish presumptive evidence, and not proofs.

Such a conclusion may appear to be depressing. However I do not think it is entirely negative, for we are less taken in by the lie, with its thousand facets, and by its mocking sneers, when we refuse to fall for it (a course likely to deepen our stupidity by inducing in us belief in a whole series of successive and contradictory "revelations") and when we leave behind us the data-collecting stage and enter the stage of comparative study and synthesis, and indeed even of physical interpretations if our science succeeds in overcoming the obstacles on its path.

February 1, 1975.

Accompanying letter, to the Editor of FSR, with comments, from Aimé Michel

"Dr. Guérin gave me the enclosed text of a paper which he delivered on February 1, 1975, at a Symposium on Parapsychology held in Paris. He asked me to correct it where necessary and to send it to you for publication in FSR should you so desire.

"Personally, I find the paper thoroughly well thought out, and most interesting. It is an original insight which Guérin has given us into those aspects that Ufology and Parapsychology have in common, and it is an introduction into a new world of thought that is already beginning to be familiar to us all."

A.M.

Notes

1. The dialectic employed by the scientists consists generally in making sweeping statements to the effect that paranormal manifestations are ascribable to the credulity of the observers or of these experimenters, and even to dishonesty too on their part. This belief by the scientists is in fact dictated by the deep inward conviction that these things are physically "impossible," which a few of the "rationalists" are honest enough to admit.
2. The historical reality of Christ is rejected by certain of the "rationalists," but not by all of them. For that reality is, fundamentally speaking, only "embarrassing" for them so far as its paranormal context is concerned. In other words, suppress the miracles described in the Gospels – as Renan did – and then Christ becomes "plausible"...
3. I am not pronouncing an opinion here in favour of the reality of all Geller's alleged powers, but only of those (ESP) which were tested at Stanford University.
4. Whether Geller does or does not possess real psychokinetic powers, it remains a fact that an epidemic of twisted spoons is raging in all the countries that he visits and it seems that in one case at least – in Germany – the good faith of the victims who claim to have been provided in this fashion with unusable spoons and forks has been verified as the result of an investigation conducted by the Police.
5. And, what is worse, it is true!
6. *Matthew Ch. 11, v. 25.* – Translation of the Jerusalem Bible. (For my English rendering I have used the Authorized King James Version. G.C.)

Notes inserted in the Guérin article by Aimé Michel

* The *Union Rationaliste* is a sort of French club whose members reject and refute everything that is "contrary to Reason." Their definition of "Reason" is in reality "good common sense," and they reject everything that is paranormal.

† Alalouf is a French faith healer of Greek origin, very celebrated in France.

\+ Like Santa Teresa de Avila, Marie Madeleine de Pazzi, etc. (Cf. my book *Le Mysticisme, L'Homme Interieur et L'Ineffable,* published by Editions Culture-Art-Loisirs, 114, Champs-Elysees, 75391 Paris.)

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FROM THE TASMANIAN "FLAP" OF 1974 – PART 2

W. K. Roberts et al

Continuing with further highlights from a report submitted by the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre*

IT was a very lucky day for the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre when Roger Brooks, a senior English master, and Garry Bensemann sighted a UFO at Scamander on August 30, 1974. Their meticulous notes on the sighting resulted in one of the best documented reports to the Centre.

About 10.20 p.m., the two men were out walking a dog on Scamander beach when the dog became excitable. It was then they noticed what looked like a bright aircraft light, estimated to be a half-mile out to sea to the south-east. After watching the light moving erratically for ten minutes and realising it wasn't a plane, Brooks telephoned the Hobart Airport, and was given in turn the Centre's telephone number.

Sightings Officer Ken Bennetto was able to give Brooks hints on how to observe the strange light and the two witnesses then formed a simple rectangle with sticks driven into the sand. Watching the light they logged its flight path.

The UFO darted in strange trajectories and angles around the sky, hovered, altered speed and flashed coloured lights. It moved vaguely north and was due east of the witnesses by 10.45 p.m. Then it started to move steadily south along the coast, so they rushed to their car. They drove some eight or nine miles south of Scamander, keeping the UFO in sight. However, it was moving faster than they and became fainter. By 11.30 p.m. it looked like a moving star and at 12.15 a.m. it had disappeared into increasing cloud.

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* Secretary, W.K. Roberts. Address: 366, Huon Road, South Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 7000.

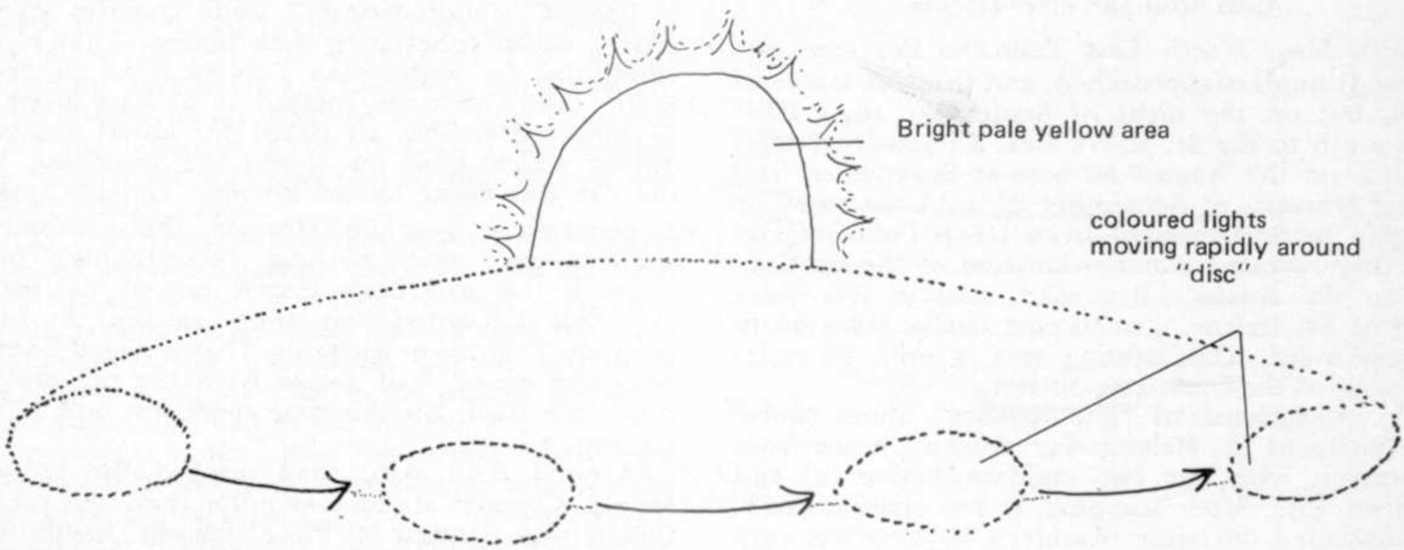
Description of the Scamander UFO

The UFO was mainly composed of lights, the brightest, a pale yellow, was shaped like a sharp dome. Beneath the dome, green, pink and occasional white and pale blue lights moved from left to right around what appeared to be a disc, rather like an upturned plate. This lower part did not appear solid but rather was an area of light. Its apparent size was about a sixteenth the size of the moon. At half a mile this would roughly be of width 20 feet at least. The light from the object did not make shafts in the sky, but twinkled brightly.

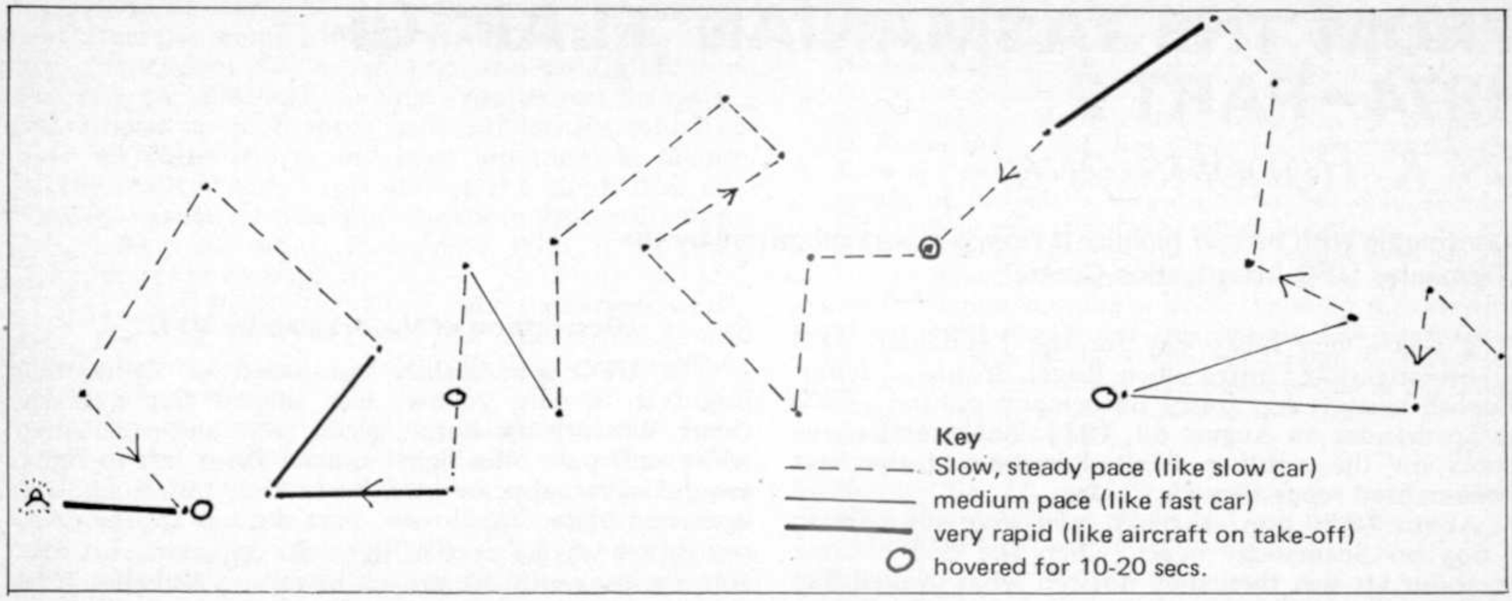
Cloud began to appear about half an hour after the object was first sighted. Jupiter and the stars went dim, but not the UFO. Only after it disappeared south into the increasing cloud did it fade at about 11.50 p.m. It was seen again just after midnight, very distant, but moved into cloud again after some twelve minutes.

The movements

In relation to St. Patricks Head to the south, the UFO appeared to be at the same height (around 1,600 feet). The light was first seen to the south-east and came northwards initially. When it was moving in a darting, hovering pattern the witnesses set up their rectangle of sticks. There was no circular or curved flight noticed. At times it moved at slow, steady car speed, then the speed of a fast car, and at other times like the speed of an aircraft on take-off. When it was stationary it would remain in the one position for some 10 to 20 seconds before moving on. When it travelled away to the south,



UFO sighted at Scamanda



Sample of type of pattern made by UFO on the 25 min. northward journey (10.20–10.45 pm) at Scamanda

gaining elevation, it did so steadily but at an increasing speed.

Conclusions

Scamander is over 150 miles from Hobart, situated on the State's east coast, being only 35 miles as the crow flies south-east of Gladstone. The report certainly fits in with the UFO "flap" from the north-east and a further sighting at St. Marys soon after.

Checks with the DCA proved that there were no aircraft in the sighting area, whilst our astronomical adviser discounted satellites. The brightest astronomical object, Jupiter, was noted by the witnesses at the time of the sighting. The weather tallied with their description, being fine at first with increasing cloud later. No one else viewed the UFO, most people being in bed at the time. This observation by two articulate witnesses made what could have been just a "nocturnal light" into a sighting of high probative value.

Auto Stop and after-effects

Since May, North East Tasmania has seen cars followed, hunters approached, and brilliant low-level UFOs, but on the night of September 16, a UFO came south to the St. Marys area, a number of miles inland from the August 30 case at Scamander. The Hobart *Mercury* of September 21 told the story of a family being terrorised by a UFO. Following up this story revealed that the location of the sightings was on the Anson's Bay road, four to five miles north of St. Helens, a small port twelve miles north of Scamander. The sighting area is only 20 miles south-east of the Gladstone district.

Mrs. A. Richards of "The Marshes", about twelve miles north of St. Helens, was returning home from Launceston with her two children Janine (8) and Kathleen (5). After stopping at her sister-in-law's, she continued on home. Kathleen by now was very tired and went to sleep. At this stage the car was running well.

Mr. R. Brooks of Scamander (the English teacher featuring in the previous case) visited the witness on behalf of the Centre and we are indebted to him for the following narrative.

It was dark with light drizzle when Mrs. Richards approached a bridge on Anson's Bay road, approximately four to five miles north of St. Helens. She noticed that the car radio went static; previously there had been good reception and she hadn't noticed this trouble before. Following this, the sky in her field of view ahead was lighted brightly. As the car crossed the bridge it lost power on a gentle incline, then stopped dead. All the car lights went out – headlights, wireless, heater, dashboard – total dark except for the light in the sky. Mrs. Richards tried to start the car, but after ten seconds a deafening vibrating noise enveloped the car "like 30 to 40 large jets."

"I felt my head was splitting open. I thought the world was coming to an end," said Mrs. Richards. The noise forced her to cover her ears. Kathleen was still asleep but Janine said the sound was "deafening."

Almost simultaneously, quite painful electric shocks began penetrating their bodies – like electric vibrations, far worse than a shock from an electric kettle (Mrs. Richards guessed it to have been 400 to 500 volts). This all lasted for about a minute, during which time she thinks she screamed. Then the car was filled by an invisible choking smell – a penetrating gas, far stronger than commercial bottled gas, and nothing recognisable. Janine smelt it too and both leaped out of the car for air. "All I wanted was fresh air and to breath properly," said Mrs. Richards. They dragged Kathleen who was dazed, half awake from the car, and fled down the road. By this time there was only light in the sky.

Around 9.45 p.m. they reached the house of Mr. H. Chappel about two miles from the car. Mr. Chapel was alarmed by Mrs. Richards' uncontrolled state. He returned with his brother and Mrs. Richards to the car. There was no sign of any light. The car

started faultlessly although there was little water in the radiator. Mr. Chappel is a mechanic and at that time could find nothing wrong with the car except a hot bonnet; probably the radiator had boiled. Mrs. Richards finally continued on home.

Husband second witness?

At the time of the experience, Mr. Richards, who was waiting at home, saw lights in the sky and heard a distant roar. He thought it was his wife driving along the farm road and took little notice, expecting her to arrive at any minute. He was surprised when the car did not come over the hill.

The next day, a St. Helens garage proprietor, Mr. G. Stone, examined the car thoroughly and could find nothing wrong. The radio worked, and the electrical system was in working order.

The day after the event, Mrs. Richards' arms and fingers were badly swollen and she had difficulty in walking. She was also numb on the right side of her face and had a red mark, two-cent-sized, above her right eyebrow. She claims she did not bruise herself but that the vibrations did it. Despite tranquilisers, her nerves have been in a poor state since the incident. She consulted a doctor who felt she was suffering from severe emotional reaction. The children suffered no after-effects.

Mrs. Richards says her greatest frustrations have come from trying to convince people of what happened. She has never had any form of mental disorder or delusions. She doesn't drink and has not been sick. She says, "I am hardly likely to make up a story like this. Why should I?" People the investigator spoke to described the witness as sane, healthy, hard-working and sincere, and were emphatic that this was no made-up story.

A Richards repeater

Two nights later, on September 18, it was Mr. Richards' turn to be followed. About 8.15 p.m., when he was returning home by car along a back road, he first noticed a light. It was to the south-east at a 45 degree angle and apparently following him about a half-mile behind. On a closer look he concluded that he could see an area of light occupying as much of the sky as the Southern Cross but with no definite edge. When he stopped, it stopped. It was a pale yellow colour and seemed to be attracted by the car headlights. The witness used just his park lights and the object fell in behind. All this lasted about half an hour until Richards reached his home at "The Marshes". On arriving home he told his wife and two of the children, the third child being asleep.

Ricky (11) went outside and spotted the object. It was an inverted banana shape low in the east. The colour was a vibrant yellow, like egg yolk. They all went back into the house and watched the UFO hovering above tree tops about 100 to 150 yards from the house. Unlike the earlier part of the sighting, the object now had a clear outline.

They were under the impression that light attracted the object and when they turned out the house lights, the crescent shape went further away. It remained near the house for five minutes in all before simply fading out.

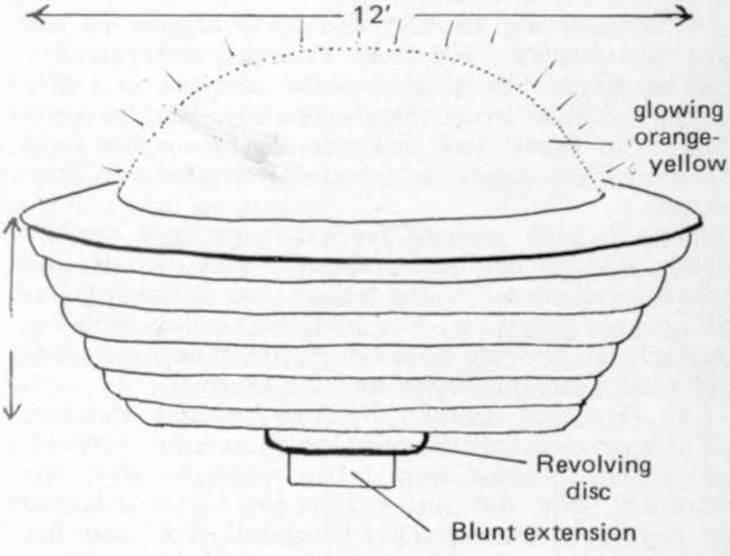
At no time was Mr. Richards' car affected, whilst no sound was heard from the object. While being followed, he travelled 20 to 30 m.p.h. When seen from the house the UFO was about a third the size of the moon. When first seen from the car it was a vague area four times the size of the moon.

Frightening moment near Tayene

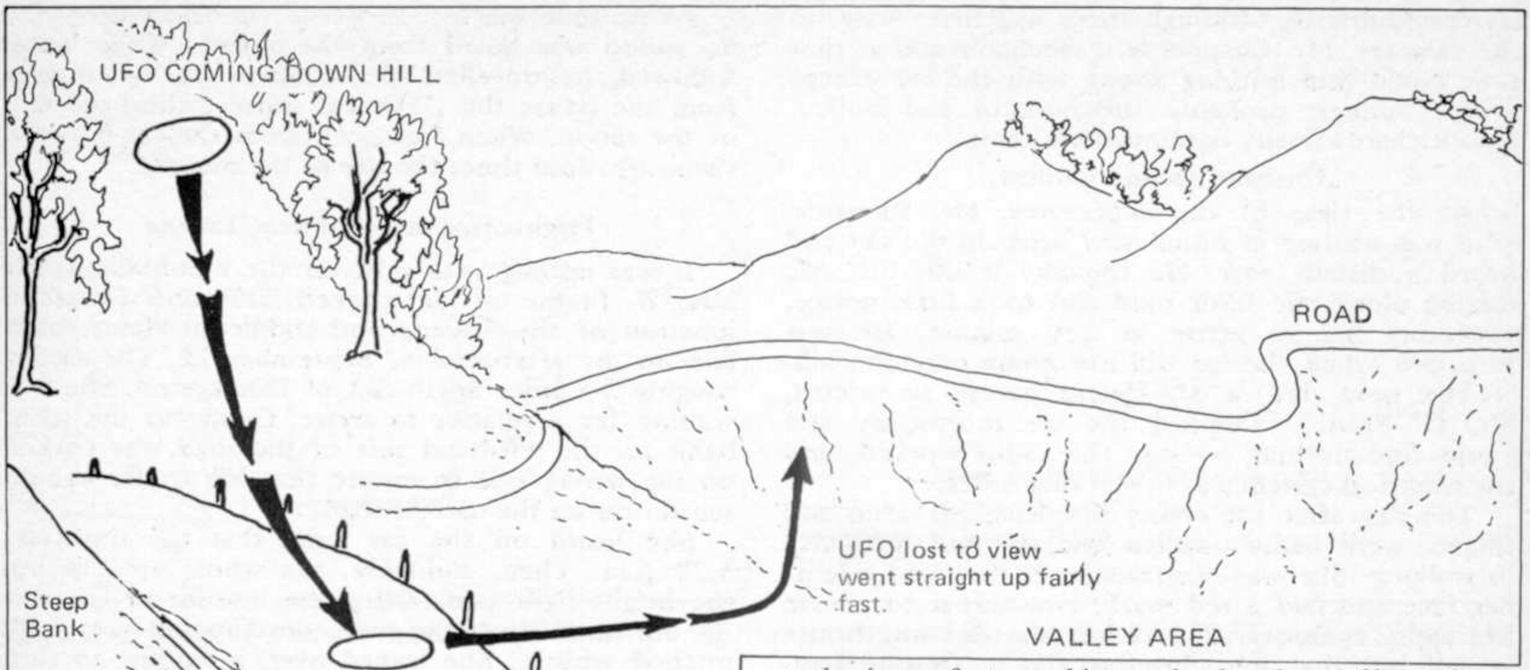
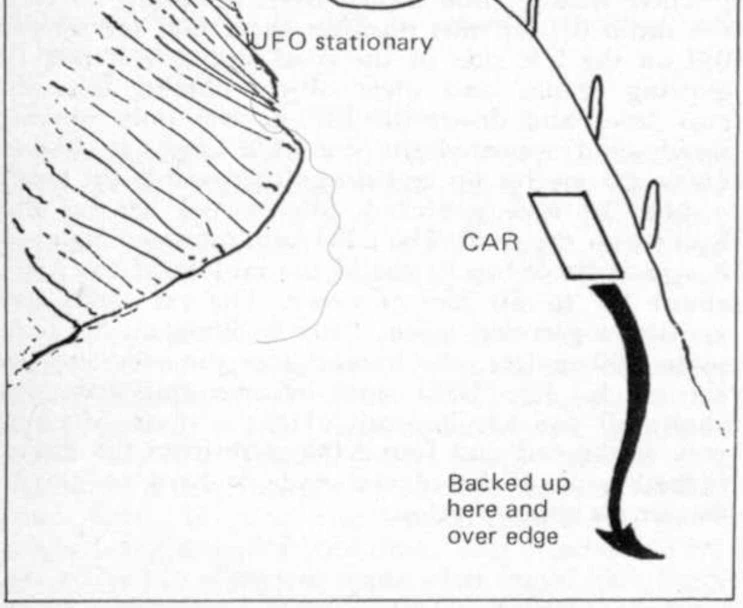
It was raining with mist on the mountains when Mrs. W. (name on file) parked 200 yards from the junction of the Tayene and Diddleum Plains roads late on the afternoon of September 22. The area is roughly 30 miles north-east of Launceston. She was waiting for a relative to arrive. Owing to the steep bank on the left-hand side of the road, she parked on the wrong side to ensure that log trucks should see her car on the narrow road.

She heard on the car radio that the time was 5.20 p.m. Then, suddenly, the whole area lit up, the bright light penetrating the interior of the car. At the same time, the radio developed a very high pitched whistle. She leaned over, intending to turn the radio off. In this position she could see up the hill on the left side of the road and saw at once a glowing orange and silver object coming between two trees and down the hill. It was only moving slowly and appeared the size of a large car. It was 15 to 20 metres up and dropping towards the road.

Mrs. W. now panicked. She started her car and backed up the road. The UFO kept approaching until it was at fence-top height in the middle of the road, about 20 to 30 metres away. The car radio still emitted a piercing noise. After backing up the road some 100 metres, she backed over the edge and the car stuck. The UFO now became stationary for about 60 seconds in front of the witness. She was very frightened and found the glare from the dome-shaped top of the object made it hard to clearly discern its upper portion.



UFO seen at Tayene 29.9.74

Diagrammatic sketch depicting the Tayene incident

After hovering briefly, the UFO dipped to the right and moved away from the road over a valley area alongside the road (to the south-west, after coming initially from the south-east). It then went straight up fairly fast and was lost from her field of vision. The experience had lasted three to four minutes.

Mrs. W. how jumped from her car and ran off up the road to her house about a mile distant. She looked back to see if the object was following but did not see anything. She had the feeling of being watched. On arriving hom her husband and son went back to the car, but found nothing unusual.

She was very shaken by the incident and was sick for a number of days with nervous tension. Her freshly permed hair turned straight after the encounter. She did not believe in UFOs prior to the sighting, although her husband did, and her relatives said she should report the sighting.

It would appear the presence of the UFO affected the car's radio. Before the sighting it was claimed to be in perfect working order but has suffered from distortion since.

The next day when the car was towed home, it was noticed how exceptionally clean the front of it was although the rest was still dirty. Previously there had been cat footprints all over the bonnet, but the front was cleaned as though given a good polish. Neither the witness or her husband felt it was possible for the bonnet to be cleaned by the rain of the previous day whilst the rest of the car was so dirty.

Description of the UFO

The UFO was domed on top, but Mrs. W. found it hard to discern it due to the intense orange-yellow light that it gave off. She therefore found it hard to give an estimate of the size of the dome. Beneath the dome the UFO was silver-grey. There was a wide brim, on which the witness thought there could have been portholes, and below were six to eight reversed stepped bands estimated to be five feet in depth in all. In width, the object was about twelve feet. At the base, in the centre, was a small revolving disc and again below this a protruding box or tube of short length. The tube object appeared to split into four sections as the UFO sped off.

Investigation

The sighting was initially reported to the RAAF, They could find no explanation. The RAAF did not visit the sighting area, but interviewed the witness by telephone.

The Centre's Northern Representative, Mr. John C. Dean, visited the sighting area and checked the surrounding ground for any marks or magnetic variations. Nothing was found. Mrs. W. was still disturbed by the incident when Dean called to see her two weeks later. The car was not available for inspection at the time.

Explanations such as weather balloons, aircraft, helicopters, and meteorological phenomena were all ruled out leaving us with a good low level daylight sighting.

THE CASE OF CARLO ROSSI

Mary Boyd

THIS interesting, and possibly very important Italian case occurred at 3.00 a.m. on July 25, 1952, in the district of San Pietro a Vico (Lucca). Brief accounts of it have appeared from time to time in European UFO journals but the present version, which I have translated from the new book *UFO In Italia* (Vol. 1),[1] where it is listed as Case No. 51, seems to be much more complete than any previously seen.

FSR Vol.15, No.1 (Jan./Feb. 1969) carried a letter about it from Dr. Jacques Vallée, in which the latter pointed out that it was not true (as Janet Gregory had appeared to suggest in her letter about "Men in Black", in FSR Vol.14, No.6) that "witness intimidation" was confined to the United States. According to Dr. Vallée, who evidently takes this as a genuine "MIB" case, the original press report of it appeared in the newspaper *La Nazione* (published in Firenze (Florence), for September 25, 1952.[2]

On the night in question Carlo Rossi, a keen fisherman, was on his way to a spot where the river Serchio deepens and widens in a broad curve opposite San Pietro a Vico, about 4 km. from Lucca. While walking along the footpath in the dark, he suddenly noticed a strange light on the river. At the point where he was the river bank is very high and the water invisible. His curiosity aroused and somewhat alarmed, Rossi quickened his pace until he was parallel to the light, then he climbed the embankment and leant over. To his amazement he saw hovering low over the river an enormous circular craft apparently taking in water by means of a long tube. Completely silent, it seemed to hover by means of propellers.

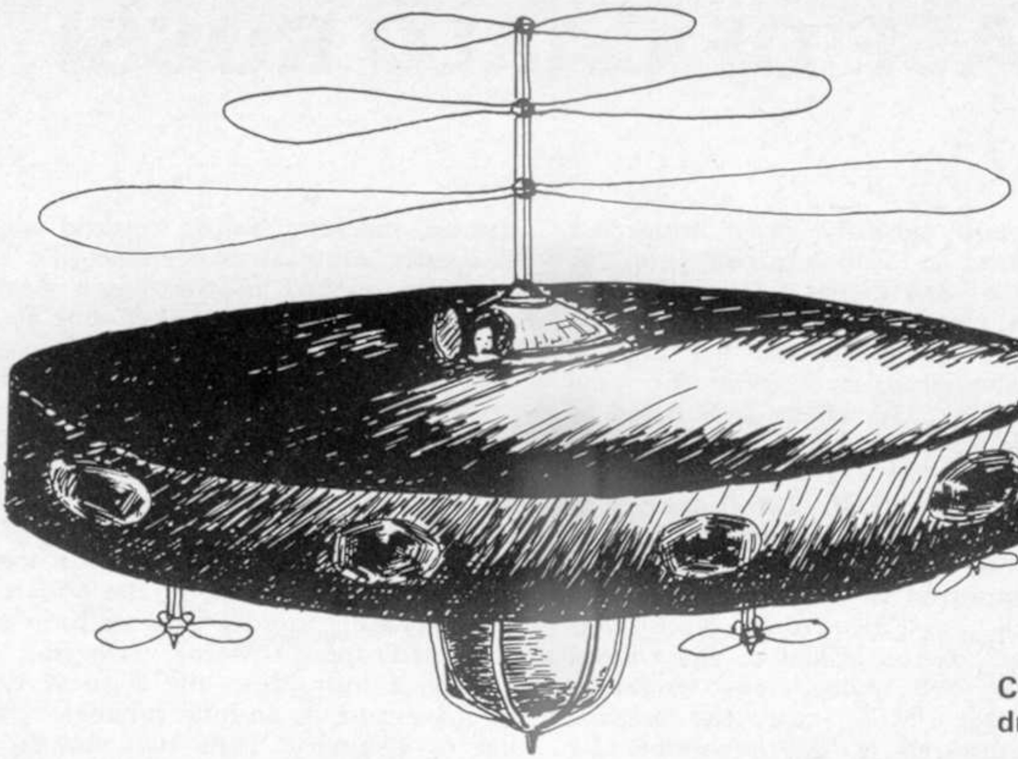
Rossi described it as follows: "I judged its diameter to be about 25 metres; a round disk painted black with no appendages. Along its depth of about 2 metres were oval apertures like mouths. I should guess that through them it sucked in air which probably operated its mechanism. In the centre a small turret protruded 3 metres below the disk and half a metre above it. It was as big as a room, transparent like glass or plastic and with a diameter of 5 metres. Inside were visible four thin tubes attached to a large cylinder in the centre. A bluish flame shot with orange passed from one cylinder to another and alternately rose and fell. These flashes coming from the transparent turret lit up the disk by reflection on to its surface. The craft had five propellers underneath it and these extended about half their length from the black cylinder band or depth around which they were placed at equal intervals. Attached to the upper part of the turret were three more propellers, the lowest being the breadth of the disk and the other two above it being proportionally smaller."

The astonished Rossi remained motionless and half afraid, half curious, continued to watch the strange machine as it hovered above the water. The only sound was a rustle like silk. Suddenly a porthole opened in the upper part of the turret and a human figure looked out as if searching for someone. He evidently spotted the indiscreet witness for he pointed to him as if indicating his presence to someone inside. Rossi, seized with panic, scrambled down the embankment, but he had barely reached the bottom, where he was quite out of sight of the craft, when a green ray passed over his head. Simultaneously he felt an electric shock through his whole body. Terrified, he threw himself down and on looking up he perceived the sphere rise above the embankment, rapidly gain altitude and disappear at a fantastic speed towards Viareggio.

For a long time the witness did not mention his adventure to anyone for fear of being taken for a liar or visionary. Then two months later something else happened. On September 15, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, Rossi, on arrival at his usual fishing spot, found another unknown fisherman there. He looked like a foreigner, wore blue coveralls and carried a short fishing rod. Tall, very thin, with a pointed nose and strange grey eyes, he at once began to speak in correct Italian but with an unrecognizable foreign accent. After a few minutes he asked Rossi if he had ever seen an aeroplane or other flying object over the river. Rossi at once thought of his earlier experience, but sensing danger in some curious way, he replied that he had never seen anything. More words were exchanged, then the mysterious stranger offered him a cigarette which the witness noticed was different from any, including familiar foreign brands, that he knew. This one was long and thin and had a unknown gold mark stamped on it which he didn't think to examine at the time. Scarcely had he lit it, however, and started to smoke, than he began to feel dizzy and sick. Instinctively he extinguished it and was about to put it in his pocket, when the individual unexpectedly seized his wrist, snatched the cigarette from him, tore it into shreds and threw them into the river. Then, without a word, he rushed off, leaving the witness terrified and perplexed.

After regaining his composure, Rossi decided that this time he would report his experiences to the Authorities, because this last episode made him fear that someone was bent on securing his silence. On September 26, therefore, he went to the Lucca office of the Public Prosecutor and testified to an extraordinary experience that had endangered his life. The Press took up the matter, the trustworthiness of the witness was acknowledged, but nothing further came to light.

Recently, however, the case was investigated by the Prato Ufological Research Group under its chairman Siro Menicucci. They succeeded in tracing relatives of Carlo Rossi (who until then had only



Copy of Carlo Rossi's drawing of the object

been known by the initial N). At the time of the incidents Carlo was 53 and despite the loss of his left arm in a railway accident back in 1926, he continued to work actively with agricultural machinery. He died about ten years ago, but Menicucci found his son Sergio and family, who still live in the same district. Sergio well remembers the agitation of his father who kept repeating: "They are surely not going to harm me because I saw that thing!" Sergio also said that the man who had offered his father the cigarette had been seen again. However it was clear to Menicucci that for some reason Sergio did not wish to pursue that point. The Prato research group was also able to contact several elderly friends of Carlo's, including the Bandelli brothers who lived near the footpath that Carlo was in the habit of using. Mario Bandelli told them that the mysterious individual who had given Carlo the presumed poisoned cigarette, was a soldier who had been seen in the village, and this was confirmed by Sergio Rossi, another old friend of Carlo's.

Notes

1. Published by Corrado Tedeschi, Firenze (Florence), 1974. (See Note 3 to Mary Boyd's *An Early Italian Cross-Country Case,* in FSR Vol.20, No.3.)
2. September 26, 1952, according to *UFO In Italia* (p. 140). Perhaps the newspaper carried reports on the case on two successive days.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you card to send.

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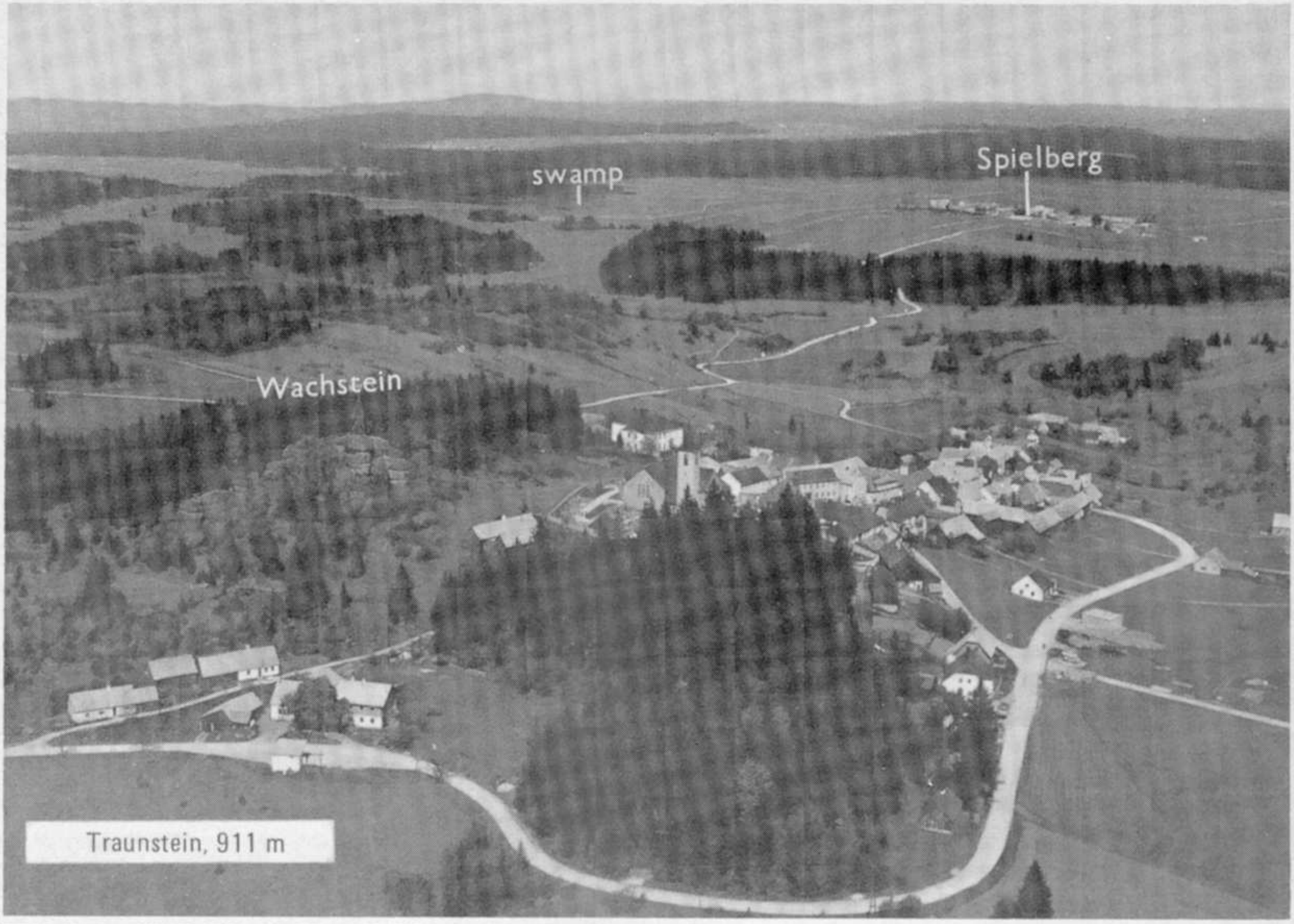


THE "SNAILS" ARE STILL AROUND – PART I

Ernst Berger

THE Traunstein, Lower Austria, "snail feeler" sightings of October 28/29 and November 17, 1973 developed into a steady local "flap". In-depth field investigations conducted by my team and I* yielded a total of 26 case histories with detailed descriptions plus measurements of some 50 objects involved. We hope the following report will show the full spectrum of this interesting activity, even though space problems make it impossible to give a minutely detailed presentation of our results. We trust, however, that our kind readers will forgive this and be sure that our investigation techniques have not weakened. The cases outlined below are in chronological order –

Mid-August, 1973

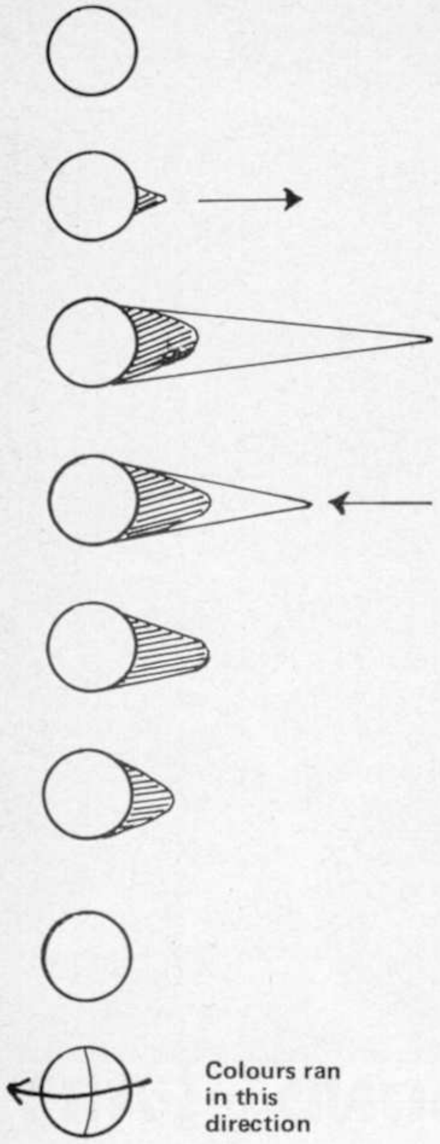
Herr Walter Tham, aged 40, a service station owner who has his home and workshop in Spielberg, about 2 km. from Traunstein, had his attention drawn to a "strange star" at an elevation of 9° and directly south of Spielberg. The time was 9.30 p.m. CET. The "star" turned from red to blue, then to green and began to send out a conical beam. The colour originated from a motionless globe of about half the diameter of the moon. It appeared to be rotating clockwise, the colours disappearing in irregular sequence – red, violet, blue, yellow, green – off the left edge. Meanwhile the beam, coming from the right edge of the globe, moved repeatedly in and out. As the beam extended slowly outwards, a darker shape could be distinguished within the cone, like the cold portion of a gas flame, and was not affected by the "pull-in process which occurred after maximum extension. The object remained about 30 minutes, but it had disappeared when Tham brought his mechanics outside the garage to take a look. At 11.00 p.m. the globe signalled again in the east and stayed there for another 30 minutes. Tham's wife and mother-in-law refused to watch it with him because "it must be a nonsense."

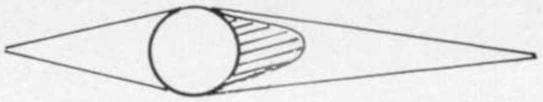
The following evening, at 10.30 p.m., when Tham was returning from Spielberg Inn (sober, it must be added, as he had only gone to buy cigarettes), the globe had returned. It was the same size as the day before (188° azimuth, 9° elevation), but it projected *two* light cones. The object disappeared in a trice, at a moment Tham had looked away.

Early September, 1973

Between 9.00 and 10.00 p.m., the "globe" with running colours hovered in the south, remained 30 minutes and then made an extremely rapid dash to the east where it contin-

* Ernst Berger is the Central European representative of MUFON.





Left: Than's sighting of UFO in mid August.
Above: The object as seen by Than on the following evening.

ued blinking for another 15 minutes. It vanished suddenly, only seconds before Tham's wife flung open the front door at her husband's calls. She wasn't pleased. A few days later, Tham observed an object "pulsating" between the shape of a globe and an elongated ellipse. Suddenly a bright yellow-orange dot detached itself from the main body and shot off into the east following a straight, horizontal trajectory. Thirty degrees "left" it came to a sudden standstill and flew back towards the globe after pausing a few seconds. Tham tried to show it to his customer, a Vienna official from the Treasury Dept., and not the brightest one: "Nonsense, Mister. It's a meteor shooting down from a star," was his intelligent reply. Tham did not try again. After sixty minutes the object vanished suddenly.

Early November, 1973

On a starry evening, Tham was travelling by car from Aschen (4 km. north-west of Spielberg), his wife in the driving seat. Between 8.00 and 8.30 p.m., while approaching Pfaffings, Tham noticed the globe, but he decided to keep his mouth shut this time. However, soon after leaving Pfaffings his wife hit the brakes and got out of the car to look at the sky. Said Tham, "It was the first time she really believed me." It changed colours much faster than all the objects he had seen before. On arriving at Spielberg, the Tham family, and Anton B. (who confirmed the sighting at an interview with us later on), continued to watch the object which disappeared by 10.15 p.m.

December 28, 1973

On an ice-cold, clear winter evening, Herr Hans Pritz (21),† his mother Hedwig (49) and his brother Gerhard (16) were grilling hot dogs a few meters uphill behind their house at Traunstein. Shortly after 7.00 p.m. a huge, fiery "something" dashed at lightning speed just below the treetops in the south-west, in the direction of the village of Buchegg 3 km. distant. It dashed back and disappeared, then came back again and performed the same thing – but at irregular intervals. The manoeuvre was performed monotonously; back, once again to the left, right, disappearance. The "something" was of 1.5 moon diameters and too fast to be a car headlight. (We timed three seconds for one "to-and-fro" with Mrs. Pritz and two seconds with Hans, giving half the speed of sound if the object was at maximum distance, right over Buchegg.) After five or more minutes of observation Hans drove to Buchegg, but he felt a fool when he arrived in a dark village with everything quiet and normal. Back at Traunstein, his mother told him the "race" continued for 30 minutes with lengthening intervals between two "drives" and eventually came to an end.

Late January (or early February), 1974

Gerhard Pritz had just started on his way to visit his uncle, between 8.00 and 8.30 p.m., when he saw in the south-east a bright red object of roundish shape, like an egg of apparent size as large as the moon (215° az., 4/5°el.). There was no sound, and the surroundings were all lit up. A light cone was descending from the object and hit the snow. It was a most impressive sight. Gerhard estimated that the object was scarcely 300 meters away, hovering over brushwood; the real size was thought to be 2.5 meters. He stood and stared for some five minutes. It had gone when he returned to the spot half an hour later.

July 26, 1974. Manoeuvres again

It was 11.45 p.m. when Hans Pritz spotted a bright object "like a sodium vapour lamp" from a window of his house (165° az., 32° el.). When it started to diminish in size and grow red after a few seconds Pritz recognised the "shrinking process" of 1973 and

† Mentioned in the Traunstein article in FSR Vol. 20, No.2.

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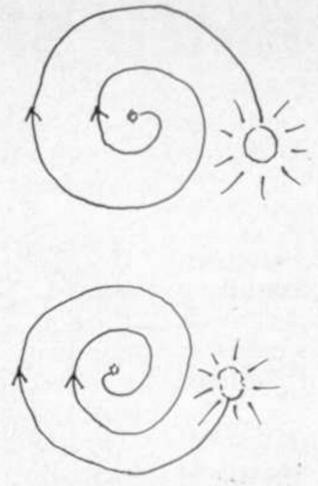
grabbed his 8 x 40 binoculars. Soon his brother Gerhard was outdoors with him and they watched the fuzzy yellow-orange light source (half-moon diameter), but no feelers were visible, only short rays around. (We took measurements later, and calculated the size of the object. We were shocked to find, after double checking, that the globe had a diameter of only about 35 cm. and was only some 55 meters away at a height of 30 meters.) From midnight to 00.30 a.m. that same night, between two pine trees 15° high, in the north-east, two blinking objects yellow-orange in their upper two-thirds and changing from red to green, blue and orange in their lower thirds were observed.

August 15, 1974.

Sawmill worker Fichtinger awakened Hans Pritz at 3.45 a.m. to show him three objects hanging in the air. One was low in the north-west (sequence of colour change dull yellow - red - green - dull yellow) and rather distant; two were definitely nearer and projecting "rays" up into the sky. The one at 40° az., 38° el. was motionless and, through binoculars, an extremely thin, dull yellow "ray" was detected, reaching vertically upwards from the upper left side of the globe and coming to an abrupt end about two diameters up — unusual for a normal spotlight. The biggest object (az., 76/77°, 42° el.), which also seemed to have projecting apparatus, moved gradually, hesitantly, southwards (106° az., 41° el.) within 45 minutes, where it was lost at 4.30 a.m. in the bluish sky before sunrise.

August 17/18, 1974. A spiral pulsation

Walter Tham was approaching Spielberg by car at about 00.30 a.m. Some 500 meters from his house, near an iron cross east of the Hummelberg peat-bog he stopped to relieve himself. Glancing in the direction of the swamp he noticed a reddish dot 7° over the horizon, below the telegraph wires running parallel to the road. Tham was then amazed as he watched it grow in the space of two seconds into a ball two-thirds the diameter of the moon. He was even more amazed by its trajectory — a perfect spiral, like a bed-spring, open towards Tham (his life of view being the middle axis). The red dot was seen approaching clockwise along this invisible spring. On reaching full size on its movement "outwards", it stopped for two seconds, then shrank again, moving clockwise along a new spiral. The spiral was huge when compared to the full-sized object. When the object was approaching it turned yellow, when receding, red. Tham watched two spiral "shrinkings" i.e. total observation period 12



Sighting at Spielberg, August 17/18, 1974. The object was red at the centre of the spiral, yellow on reaching the periphery

seconds, whereupon the red dot suddenly disappeared. It must be added that this was no new fashion swamp gas, as Tham has been familiar with the effects of *ignis fatuus* in the Hummelberg bog since boyhood.

"Traffic Lights" in the night

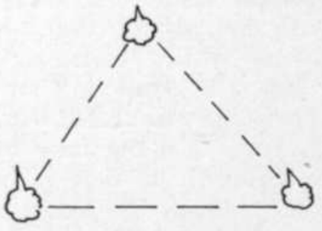
Blinking multicoloured lights never left Traunstein for the rest of the 1974 summer. On August 30 or 31, Walter L., aged 44, local department store owner, and two other villagers watched three "blinking and disappearing lights" to the north-west from 11.45 p.m. until 00.30 a.m. The rapidly pulsating lights — yellowish white-green - red - orange - yellowish white — kept up a triangular formation which remained motionless, even compared with the stars which crept across the sky.

November 18, 1974. The Grafenschlag encounter

Hans and Gerhard Pritz left Zwettl by car that evening, heading for Grafenschlag (7 km. north of Spielberg) on their way home. At 5.30 p.m., just before reaching the village, they saw a bright yellow "star" standing way behind the fields towards Klein Nondorf, only 2° above the horizon. It was still visible, glowing calmly like a sodium vapour lamp when they had take two or three bends beyond Grafenschlag. When they reached a junction where the trunk road to Klein Nondorf branches off, everything happened within seconds — "It's flying away!" One thing was clear: they faced an illuminated shape of six feet diameter at low level. The thing apparently crossed the road between the next junction 400 km distant and Zwickelmuehle 600 km. away, an old mill at the Purzelkamp brook, which meanders eastwards across open fields into a forest intersected by the Zwettl-Gutenbrunn railroad (1.8 km. from the car) — a perfectly straight trajectory. When the yellow object reached the first buildings of Klein Goettfritz suddenly it didn't appear yellow anymore, it appeared to have suddenly switched to scintillating red. The shape kept on its course and was finally lost to sight behind the pine trees of the Haushof forest.

December 9, 1974

Night had fallen, Herr L's wife Hilde wanted to close a window on the first floor of the L. department store house (where the L. family lives and works) in "downtown Traunstein". From the window Hilde saw an object which at first she took to be an aeroplane: "It sent out beams — green, blue, red, and so on. "She sketched a triangular shape. "The whole thing was three or four times a big star." From 10.30 until 11.00 p.m. she watched the object, which had a straight upper edge and a curved bottom, hovering motionless over a pylon and cable on a house opposite the store (120 az., 9° el.).



Traunstein object, 9.12.74.

Her husband took over at 11.00 p.m. "Every time the light shifted from one colour to another," he told us, "or from one spot to another, the whole shape wasn't illuminated at once, only partially — a ray shot out downwards, but never upwards." The colour change was chaotic, without any system, and the couple chose the tints red-orange, ultramarine and green-emerald in our table, "glaring, like fancy goods colours."

* * * * *

At this stage it might be as well to answer a critical question some readers would probably like to pose:- Why always Pritz and Tham reporting? We have to reply quite honestly that the average highlander is a traditionally-bound Catholic and/or materialist with low education level who is too afraid and/or too flimsy to report or even see "things in the sky" and we were lucky to find some atypical families at all who are taking notice of things their neighbours try to suppress or ignore. It may well be that 80% flap reports have already been lost because Pritz and Tham were *not* involved. But nobody else will tell us.

FACTS FOR "INFORMED SPECULATORS"

F. W. Holiday

I THINK John Lade (Vol. 21, No.2) should research his facts to a rather greater depth before venturing into the field of dogma. To assert flatly that there is no connection at all between the Loch Ness monster and UFOs is not fact but merely an opinion. Perhaps we could return to facts for a moment.

Animals cannot exist in isolation nor in very small numbers due to a genetic phenomenon known as gene deterioration. A single Loch Ness monster or even a dozen monsters existing down the centuries is genetically impossible.[1] Experts believe that a minimum of 20 individuals is needed to form a viable population – and even this figure is probably too small. But this fact instantly produces a paradox at Loch Ness.

A 3½ ton Killer whale now in captivity consumes 120 lb. of fish a day. By extrapolation – which is unlikely to be more than 20% inaccurate – a 35 ton monster some 70 feet long (the approximate length of the object that many of us have seen in Loch Ness) would consume about 4 tons of fish a week: say 200 tons a year. Twenty such animals would consume about 4000 tons annually.

Loch Ness is a big lake but to suppose that this massive amount of fish is being removed yearly is ludicrous. Neither the Scottish Ministry of Fisheries, the Ness Fishery Board nor the anglers have any evidence for such massive predation. Moreover, it is known that indigenous fish in Loch Ness are slow-growing; indeed the oldest eel ever recorded in Britain came from Ness and it was small. Salmon have greatly declined due to netting off Greenland and disease. Due to the rapid decrease in light there is no zooplankton below about 20 feet.

The mysterious monsters therefore appear to support their huge bulk on nothing at all. This at least is consistent with their trait of never leaving a dead or dying carcase near the shore and never appearing in detail in a film.

The zoological establishment, in the shape of the British Museum (Natural History) and the Washington Smithsonian Institute, are well aware of this curious situation and have quietly sent out experts to probe the problem. They find that not only the Loch Ness monster, but also the alleged ape-man of North America known as Bigfoot, each fall into the same strange category. This is characterized by a) a lack of organic remains, b) no observed pattern relating to habits such as breeding, feeding or migration and c) an environmental lack of suitable food for animals of the bulk described. Since the problem remains, what is the answer?

Mr. Lade makes another factual error when he says that a sonar *picture* has been obtained of the Loch Ness monster. You cannot take recognisable pictures with sonar. What you can do is to take time-elapse pictures using a strobe flash. This is what Dr. Robert Rines did to obtain the pictures mentioned. I happened to be at Loch Ness when he took it and he came up within the hour to tell us about it.

The trouble here is that it is not a clear unambiguous negative but a blurry meaningless image. The alleged "plesiosaur" only emerged after the negative had been specially intensified by the Houston space-centre computer which normally deals with film from space. The fact that Dr. Rines has recently obtained still more underwater shots – not so far released – increases my doubts about what goes on in Loch Ness. Readers may remember the way the late Ivan T. Sanderson and Dr. Heuvelmans became greatly excited about an "ape-man" lodged in an ice-block. Two better qualified investigators than Sanderson and Heuvelmans it would be hard to imagine. Yet somehow the convincing ape-man became transformed into a less-convincing model made in Hollywood. No wonder Keel writes about "cosmic practical jokers" and Professor Napier thinks the phenomena emerge from "The Goblin Universe".[2]

Is the Loch Ness monster an apparition and are apparitions hallucinations? In his last book, *The Romeo Error*, Dr. Lyall Watson analyses my last sighting of the monster. He seems to think that the object was an hallucination produced by my mind, that this spread to the six witnesses with me and then to others on the opposite side of the loch. This I don't believe.

Celia Green and Charles McCreery of the Oxford Psychophysical Research Institute have just published a book called *Apparitions* (Hamish Hamilton, 1975) which suggests that all apparitions are hallucinations. But at no point do they define "hallucination." The Concise Oxford Dictionary suggests: "illusion; apparent perception of external object not actually present."

The problem is obvious: how can an illusory object bounce back photons and sonar beams? How can it be seen simultaneously by observers a mile apart?

I don't know who wrote that remarkable manuscript on the UMMO civilization but it makes a lot of sense to me. Where is the "real" world referred to so glibly by Green and McCreery? Such terminology makes one wonder if these writers have ever heard of relativity.

My present position is that the Loch Ness monster and UFOs are not objects, whether organic or mechanical, although they present themselves as such to observers. They are, if you like, pseudo-objects; but no doubt they are as "real," within their own terms of reference, as the nearest concrete wall is to us.

With Uri Geller and Professor John Taylor's amazed analysis of the Geller effect behind us, we

can look with much sympathy on John Lade's notion that they are semi-objectified thoughts.[3] Eddington suggested many years ago that the universe is intrinsically a mental phenomenon.

The key question – of who is doing the thinking – is impossible to answer in our general state of cosmic ignorance. As Lade puts it – "We now need intelligence."

I cannot stifle the fear of wondering whether thoughts are not disseminated automatically to a radius of X light years, and of the possible result. Maybe the human race already matches the tedious parade of silvery discs by thoughts of its own even more banal. Imagine, for a grisly instant, that *Coronation Street** appears nightly in the heavens of neighbouring planets to the confusion of scientists in those places who wonder how the metabolism of any species can be sustained indefinitely on a diet of never-ending bitter ale. On the basis of thought we are indeed ill-prepared for meeting our cosmic brothers. Is this why they think up cosmic puns like monsters, Bigfeet and the bat-eared gargoyles of the Hopkinsville variety?

* [A long-running British television (ITV) "soap opera" serial–EDITOR.]

References:

1. Gene deterioration is a severely limiting factor. In 1911 the U.S. government established reindeer on an island off Alaska to serve as an emergency food-supply. The 21 does and 4 bucks had increased to 2000 deer by 1938. Then the "gene pool" became exhausted and by 1950 only 8 reindeer remained.
2. See: *Bigfoot* by John Napier M.R.C.S., I.R.C.P., D.Sc. (Lond.) Published by Jonathan Cape, 1972. Quote: "...it will become intellectually necessary from time to time to abandon the real world and, like Persephone enter the dark regions of another world which I like to call the Goblin Universe."
3. See: *Superminds* by John Taylor of King's College, London. Published by MacMillen, 1975.

TINY ENTITIES REPORTED IN COLOMBIA

Gordon Creighton

WRITING in Professor Fabio Zerpa's Fortean and ufological Journal *Cuarta Dimension**, No.23, Sr. Rafael Barrero Cortes, Director of the "Cirex" research group in Colombia, gives many details of an extraordinary case in which four schoolboys and a policeman allegedly had a close view of extremely small humanlike beings of the type so frequently recorded in the annals of research into what is generally called the Fairy Tradition.

The date of the occurrence was August 10, 1973.

The four boys, Medardo Martinez, Hipolito Garcia, Hernan Manjarras, and Mario Fernandez Ramirez, are described as pupils at the local *Escuela Normal* in the town of Ibague. (Ibague is a little over 100 kilometres or so to the south-west of Bogota, Capital of the Republic of Colombia.)

The boys were outside the town and were approaching a ravine (*quebrada*) known as *El Jordan* which lies just a few miles distant from Ibague. They were on an expedition to gather botanical specimens from the semi-dry bed of a nearby rivulet.

Arrived at the banks of the stream, the boys observed, with vast astonishment, *four small beings no more than 20 cm. in height* standing beneath and slightly in front of a little stone footbridge and seemingly engaged in searching for something in the mud of the river-bed.

The boys described the little creatures as "dressed in white, with tiny grey caps on their heads, and with humanlike features." The boys walked on towards them, and then suddenly the little creatures were gone, "disappearing in the air as though by magic."

There is no account of any machine or craft having been seen, and consequently the case falls into the voluminous category which has been accummulating for centuries past, and from every corner of our planet, of alleged encounters with tiny "elves", "goblins", "trolls", "fairies" – creatures for which we find dozens and dozens of names merely in our languages of Western Europe. As I began to emphasise more than ten years ago, this whole question of the so-called "Fairy Tradition" must be tackled if we are ever to have any hope of knowing what the latterly more fashionable stories of "flying saucers" and "UFOs" are all about.

As for the policeman, we are told that his name is not being divulged, but that the report which he submitted to his superiors was identical in substance with the account given by the four schoolboys. According to Sr. Rafael Barrero Cortes, a group of Colombian experts are now engaged in a thorough study and analysis of both versions of the affair.

After their initial shock and surprise the boys stepped down into the bed of the stream (shown in the accompanying photographs as just a creek about ten or fifteen feet wide) and found a whole series of tiny footprints in the mud. One of the pictures shows some six or seven of these marks, which certainly look quite deep. They are roundish, do not look to me particularly like "small human footprints," and, as is usual in such cases, are altogether rather unimpressive and certainly totally inconclusive. As always, all that we have to go on are the statements of the five witnesses, who affirm that they saw what they saw – tiny humanlike beings.

When the affair became known, vast crowds of people descended on the area of the El Jordan Ravine to have a look at the spot, and the story of the little dwarves became the main topic of conversation not only in Ibague but throughout the whole of the Colombian Republic.

* English translation: *Fourth Dimension.* Published in Buenos Aires, by Fabio Zerpa and the O.N.I.F.E. UFO Research Group.

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

England

Saucer over Wigan

The *Wigan Observer* of October 31, 1975, carried the following account,–

"A 'flying saucer' has been spotted hovering over Wigan.

"The sighting was made by a Wigan man's girlfriend – a BA graduate – near the Technical College in Parson's Walk.

"Now Marilyn Parkes [*of Westvale, Kirkby, Liverpool*] has written to the Wigan Observer asking if anyone else saw the strange object in the sky on October 22.

"She says: 'I am not a member of any UFO society and have always kept an open mind on such matters. However, I thought you might be interested in my experience on October 22.

" 'I was on my way to pick up my boyfriend from the Spring Gardens Annexe of Wigan College of Technology. His lecture finished at 9 p.m., and shortly before this I visited my aunt who lives in Barnsley Street, Springfield.

" 'Because it is a one-way street, I therefore drove down from Buckley Street and was hence facing down towards Parson's Walk when I parked.

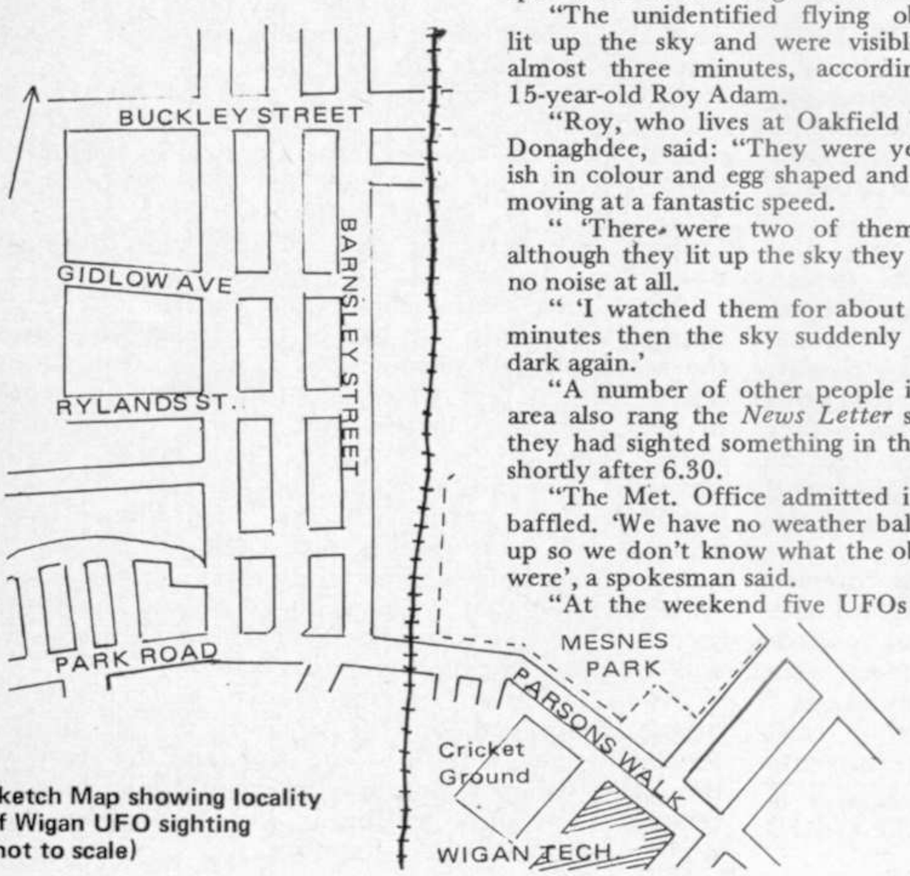
" 'I arrived there at approximately 8.40 to 8.45 p.m. to set off for the Tech. There were a lot of cars parked in the street, and I switched on the side and headlights and windscreen wipers since it was drizzling slightly.

" 'I was about to pull out round a van parked directly in front when, for some inexplicable reason, I glanced at the sky and noticed a perfectly spherical object, luminous orange and moving relatively slowly across the road.

" 'It disappeared over the houses and I drove off to see if I could trace it, turning left along Parson's Walk since it seemed to be heading in that direction, However I lost sight of it.

" 'If anyone else saw it at the same time I would be interested to know about it, or to hear from anyone who is interested in such phenomena, and who, perhaps may have some explanation."

Credit: **C.R. Mather** of Lower Ince, Wigan, who also kindly supplied a road sketch map.



Sketch Map showing locality of Wigan UFO sighting (not to scale)

Northern Ireland

Egg-shaped UFOs over Donaghadee

From the *Belfast News Letter* of November 4, 1975, we learn how unusual aerial objects,–"Egg-shaped, yellowish and travelling upwards at phenomenal speed..." were seen.

"And at least a dozen people did spot them over Donaghdee last night.

"The unidentified flying objects lit up the sky and were visible for almost three minutes, according to 15-year-old Roy Adam.

"Roy, who lives at Oakfield Walk, Donaghdee, said: "They were yellowish in colour and egg shaped and were moving at a fantastic speed.

" 'There were two of them and although they lit up the sky they made no noise at all.

" 'I watched them for about three minutes then the sky suddenly went dark again.'

"A number of other people in the area also rang the *News Letter* saying they had sighted something in the sky shortly after 6.30.

"The Met. Office admitted it was baffled. 'We have no weather balloons up so we don't know what the objects were', a spokesman said.

"At the weekend five UFOs were sighted over Belfast flying in a 'V' formation across the city."

Argentina

Landing near Miramar

According to a report in *La Razon* (Buenos Aires) of March 11, 1975, Juan Andres Gregorini, a farmer at Los Abuelos, near the beach resort of Miramar (on the Atlantic Coast just south of Mar del Plata) watched, with his family, a UFO flying around over his property. The mystery craft, which emitted vivid flashes of light, touched down very briefly, performed a "balancing motion" for a few seconds, and then took off again and vanished at incredible speed towards the north.

The statements of the farmer, who is an ex-policeman and a native of Miramar, were confirmed by his family.

Credit: **Jane Thomas** of Buenos Aires.

Mexico

UFO follows Piper

The *Worcester Gazette*, Massachusetts, of May 7, 1975, carried the following UPI report of an incident which took place on May 3, 1975,–

"Carlos Antonio de los Santos Montiel tried to flip over two flying saucers with the wings of his Piper plane before bursting into tears of desperation, he told newsmen.

"Authorities at Benito Juerez International Airport said the 23-year-old flier told them three unidentified flying objects joined him as he was flying at 15,000 feet and 140 miles per hour over Tequesquitengo Lake 50 miles south of Mexico City Saturday.

" 'Two of them flew a few inches from each wing and another below the plane,' he said. 'I tried to lower the landing wheels to hit one below, but the mechanism failed.

" 'Then I tried to hit the other two with the plane's wings. But the controls did not respond.'

"At that moment, he said, his nerves broke and he burst into tears.

"De los Santos Montiel said he was able to radio the control tower at the Mexico City's airport, but added his plane was 'piloted by some strange force between Tequesquitengo and Tlalpan,' a southern suburb of the capital.

"It was there, he said, that the UFO's peeled away towards two snowcapped volcanoes about 50 miles to the south."

Credit: **Barry Greenwood** of Stoneham, Mass.

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After four years' valuable service to *Flying Saucer Review*, Mrs. Enid Guinness will be leaving us. She is shortly going overseas when her husband takes up a new appointment, and while we are all very sorry to see her go we have been doubly greatful for the excellent work she has done for the Review. We welcome Mrs. Betty Revill who is now taking over the job of distribution.

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MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Gobbledygook

Dear Sir,–In the above article, which appeared in FSR Vol.18 No.6, I was very surprised that Mr. Creighton omitted to mention one early case of a reported interruption of a radio programme to announce the crashing of a flying saucer.

This occurred in June 1947 and concerned the stage and radio star Hughie Green. The report was on page three of the very first issue of "The Flying Saucer Review" – Vol.1 No.1! I enclose a photocopy of the page to refresh Mr. Creighton's memory!

Yours sincerely,
Peter Johnson
1 De Morley Garth, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8JG.

And what better than to reproduce an extract from that item which was published nearly 21 years ago – EDITOR:

"Broadcasts reporting a Flying Saucer crash picked up on his car radio as he drove across America has baffled stage and radio star Hughie Green since June, 1947.

"He was driving alone from Hollywood to Philadelphia for a business appointment and was tuned in to broadcasting stations most of the time 'because it's a long and boring trip.'

"But let Mr. Green take up the story.

" 'About 250 miles out of Philadelphia,' he said, 'a commentator interrupted the programme to announce that a Flying Saucer had crashed in New Mexico and that the Army were moving in to investigate.

" 'Later the programme was interrupted again and quite a few details were given.

" 'Several newsflashes about the incident from various stations followed. The last I heard was just before reaching Philadelphia. The announcer promised further bulletins. None followed.

" 'When I got there I bought all the newspapers I could lay my hands on. But not one carried the story. And questions at the radio stations just drew a blank. It's mystified me ever since.' "

An impossible journey

Dear Sir,–May I make brief mention of a curious "time contraction" (?) experience similar in part to that apparently undergone by some individuals elsewhere, but on the face of it having no connection with UFOs.

This is related by a consultant psychiatrist in his book "Silent Union" (Stuart & Watkins 1966) which deals with his own psychic experiences as well as those of some of his patients. These he tells dispassionately and without attempting to draw any religious or related conclusions.

One day the doctor had visited another town with his wife and was driving back in the evening, the town being fifteen miles from home. It was a fine evening so they drove slowly, admiring the country. Yet after what they afterwards reckoned was less than five minutes travelling they passed a signpost indicating that they were only three miles from their own town. Unable to believe the evidence of their own eyes they consulted the AA map guide and confirmed the mileage between the two towns, at the same time slowing right down to watch out for the next sign post. This appeared in the next minute or so, and almost at once they found they were entering the outskirts of their own town.

Trying to keep calm and figure it out they found they had driven (since leaving) about six minutes but covered fifteen miles – in other words travelled from point of departure to home town at *one hundred and fifty miles an hour!*

E.L. Blandford
24 Linton Crescent,
Hastings, Sussex TN34 1TJ

UMMO again

Dear Sir,–A few thoughts on "UMMO: The photos of the UFO with the)╫(sign are surely the best ever, but why "allegedly" hovered over Madrid? Surely there were enough witnesses to establish whether this sighting was genuine or not. And what about the plastic strips and metal tubes? There was physical evidence. Has anyone followed up this most important clue and approached Du Ponts for instance?

A new American test vehicle? This comes inevitably to mind, and perhaps the material was planted with that end in view. The Americans have bases in Spain, but I can't see them risking such a revolutionary craft on foreign soil when they have enormous secret test ranges in U.S.A.

So what – a hoax? Who on earth could or would go to such enormous trouble and expense, and with what object? No, the answer lies elsewhere.

John Keel is on the right track, I believe, although I prefer Meade Layne's "etherians" to Keel's term "elementals". Who ever heard of elementals building machines – they are instinctive, not intellectual. "Ultra-terrestrials" is better. We seem to be up against a thinking, apparently technological race inhabiting the etheric sub-planes intermediate between the physical and astral.

There is a cryptic passage in an early Theosophical manual which may have some bearing on this.

After listing ALL the different grades of elementals, nature spirits and devas, the writer states:

*"Quite outside of and entirely unconnected with the four classes into which we are dividing this section. there are two other great evolutions which at present share the use of this planet with humanity; but about them it is forbidden to give any particulars at this stage of the proceedings, as it is apparently not intended under ordinary circumstances either that they should be conscious of man's existence or man of theirs. If we ever do come into contact with them it will most probably be on the purely physical plane, for in any case their connection with our astral plane is of the slightest..."**

That was written almost 100 years ago, and I never met a Theosophist who could or would enlarge on that statement, but it seems to tie in with Allende's L.Ms and S.Ms – "goodies" and "baddies." I tend to link it with another statement, this time by the Tibetan in his "Treatise on Cosmic Fire." He says:

"The fourth ether, the lowest of the ethers, is to be the next physical plane of consciousness. Etheric matter is even now becoming visible to some, and will be entirely visible at the end of this century to many."

And again:

"The fourth ether is coming into recognition, and along with it will come the knowledge of the lives which it embodies."

The idea is that as the Aquarian age approaches and the solar system moves into a new alignment with the other heavenly bodies, the etheric atoms are being vivified by streams of energy from Sirius, the Pleiades, Great Bear and other sources – the seven Rays of Eastern terminology. So that the denizens of the etheric

---

* C.W. Leadbeater, *The Astral Plane*.

planes and we, through the medium of our etheric bodies, are slowly becoming aware of each other.

All this was written 50 years ago, but it begins to look as though something of the sort is happening now. I am not a Theosophist, but I do think that much of their teaching is relevant to our subject. Look at the way the UFO occupants manipulate light beams – if it *is* light – in a way which our science cannot conceive of, let alone duplicate. Look at the way they interfere with electronic circuits, and the way they cut in on our telephone and radio systems when it suits them. Everything points to an etheric source for the phenomenon.

One thing I am fairly certain of is that they are *not* what they claim to be – inhabitants of a planet way out beyond Sirius. I think it is next to impossible that a race of beings could develop on a distant world so closely resembling us that they could pass themselves off as human. Of course, a very advanced race could perhaps appear in any form they chose, but that is not what they say.

I would like to question them. For instance, if they arrived here for the first time in 1950, what about all the sightings prior to that date? What about Puharich and his cosmic visitors – is there any contact? They both claim to be almost infallible, and yet seem to be completely unaware of each other.

Then this Professor Sesma – is he a real professor, or is it a self-assumed title like "Professor" Adamski and "Doctor" George King? I hope you can clarify some of these points in furture issues of the Review; I also hope you will include "Description of the Ummo craft or OAWOOLEA UEWA OEMM with sketches and illustrations." This should be one of the most interesting of their documents – oh, and also an account of what happened at La Javie – I can find no mention of this place in MY files, which are pretty good!

Meanwhile, let me echo L.H. Navier when he says "All success to your efforts" and credit to Gordon Creighton for his herculean efforts at translating.

Yours sincerely,

T. Bryon Edmond

Sanghall Mill Farm,
Parkgate Road, Woodbank,
Chester, CH1 6EY

Please note that FSR is unable to answer enquiries about the "UMMO" communications, full texts of which are not in our possession.

Sr. Antonio Ribera is at present absent on an under-water archaeological-cum-ufological expedition around Easter Island.

Nevertheless any enquiries about "UMMO" should be sent to him at the undermentioned address:–
Calle Villirana 54 – 2º
Barcelona, Spain.

FSR CASE HISTORIES

Publication of our Supplements has now been suspended, but there are still many back numbers available . . .

1974

Supplement 18, February
LANDING AT PUENTE DE HERERA, SPAIN
by J. Macias & A. Barrigon

1973

Supplement 17, December
UFO OVER NAGAI CITY, JAPAN
by Yusuke J. Matsumura

Supplement 16, August
THE HUMANOIDS AT ROSEDALE
by Brian James

Supplement 15, June
THE GREAT "CROSS" ABOVE THE VATICAN
by Dr. Alberto Perego

Supplement 14, April
LOW-PASS UFO OVER THE A5 *by G. Geldard*

Supplement 13, February
HIGH ALTITUDE OBJECTS OVER ROMANIA
by Florin Gheorghita

1972

Supplement 12, December
A POSSIBLE LANDING AT MATADEPERA
by Jose Maria Casas-Huguet

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A HOT RECEPTION AT FORT BEAUFORT
by Charles Bowen

Supplement 10, June
THE STRANGE FORCE THAT MOVED A CAR
GICOFF report

Supplement 9, February
LANDING REPORT FROM DELPHOS
by Ted Phillips

1971

Supplement 8, December
CONTACT IN HELSINKI *by Timo Pyala*

Supplement 7, October
UFO LANDING AT SOUTH FREMANTLE
by Nancy L. Wilson

Supplement 6, August
HORSE ILL AFTER UFO INCIDENT
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